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Our guide to Art Dubai & Design Days

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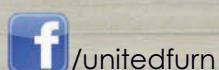
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CONTRIBUTOR OF THE MONTH

EVELINA KRAVAEV-SÖDERBERG

HEAD DESIGNER AT H&M



"I started work at H&M in autumn 2007, in time for the 2009 H&M Home launch, which offers fantastic prices and value for money for great quality items. For example, our cushion covers and towel start at Dhs9, but are of very good quality as well as being on-trend. This month sees the launch of H&M Home in the UAE (in Deira City Centre in Dubai and Abu Dhabi Mall in Abu Dhabi). The stylish spring collection is made up of items in pretty pastels and cool metallics, which will work well together as a look. One of my favourite aspects of my job is to see how people use the items I have helped to design in their own homes, but when it comes to decorating and styling for me there are no rules; your home should be a reflection of your personality."

www.hm.com/ae

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Wake-up the cottage.

Our exclusive new Kesahelle ("summer heat") bedding was designed for Marimekko by Aino-Maija Metsola. Capturing the optimistic spirit of the Finnish summer, classic pale blue and white stripes awaken to a bold band of flowers radiating in aquarelle strokes of bright blues and yellow.

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From the Editor

Bold, Bright Style

It's that time of the year again when the Madinat Jumeriah comes alive with artist's work from all over the world; Art Dubai is back and this year marks its ninth edition. Whether you are new to this annual exhibition or a seasoned visitor, we have a comprehensive guide to what is on during Art Dubai (P57) and who to look out for at Design Days (P64).

If this has inspired you to make a new purchase for your home, art or otherwise, then check out the latest openings, buys and collections, starting on page 24. Alongside the trend of the moment – geometrics (P32).

Our real homes this issue are a collective of bold colour and style, starting with our cover shoot – Hazem Aljesr's fun and funky JBR apartment (P34). Keeping it in Dubai, Nadine Kanso opens the doors of her brightly decorated Jumeriah villa (P40). Internationally we explore a sophisticated and palatial Hampton's home in New York (P46).

The hip hotels this month are the newly opened, luxurious Four Seasons in Jumeirah, Dubai and the design-focused, 100 year old Hotel Vernet, situated in the heart of Paris, which has been given a fabulous arty makeover (P76).

Enjoy!

RODALIND



THIS
MONTH'S
WISHLIST...



THE DETAILS

1. **Bunny Bottoms dish towels**, Dhs59, Crate and Barrel
2. **The Marigay bag**, Dhs21,915, Ethan K
3. **Puff Off**, Dhs145, Benefit
4. **Amazonia Anmut teacup and saucer**, Dhs322, Villeroy & Boch
5. **Balloon keyring**, Dhs600, Aspinal of London
6. **Fit and flare dress**, Dhs500, Vince Camuto

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THIS JUST IN...

ROUNDUP OF THIS MONTH'S NEWS AND BUYS



STAND UP

Keep recipe books stain free and easy to see while cooking with this Umbra Pelica cookbook stand, Dhs230 from Lakeland.
www.lakeland.ae



Wild Wicker

Create a feature of storage with this cute Elephant basket, Dhs285 from Zara Home.

www.zarahome.com



Pretty Design

Check out Western Furniture's collection of stylish accessories, like this Butterfly vase – perfect for a Mother's Day gift, from Dhs500.

www.westernfurniture.ae



Wakey Wakey

Head to Eggspectation on the Walk on JBR, Dubai for some delicious breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner treats all served in a lovely al-fresco location overlooking the beach. We recommend the Smoked Salmon Benny; two poached eggs on toast with smoked salmon and cream cheese topped with hollandaise sauce and served with a side of fresh fruit, and the California Dreaming; two poached eggs, smoked salmon, asparagus and sautéed spinach topped with hollandaise sauce served on toast with Lyonnaise-style potatoes, all washed down with a Tropical Teaser smoothie. www.eggspectation.com



COOL CASUAL

Natuzzi Italia has just launched its Re-vive performance recliner. Combining Natuzzi Italian heritage and craftsmanship with leading ergonomic technology, this innovative chair adapts to the user's body. Available in seven models and various colours and materials, such as this modern tweed Casual style.

www.natuzzi.com



BEST TASTE

Make the most of your morning coffee by enjoying it in Nespresso's Reveal Collection Intense or Mild glasses. Designed with master glass makers, Ridel, to make the most of Nespresso's Grand Cru experience. www.nespresso.com



WHITE OUT

Michael Kors introduces its newest limited-edition fragrance, Michael Kors White Eau de Parfum, which is inspired by the timeless fashion colour and the designer's glamorous style. Available now at Sephora.

www.esteeauder-me.com



Weather Warning

Bringing a bit of British weather to the region, Aspinal of London introduces its spring/summer collection which features thunderclouds, umbrellas and raindrops, as seen in this Hepburn bag, Dhs4,500.

www.aspinaloflondon.com



MELLOW YELLOW

Brighten up your home with Crate and Barrel's latest offerings, which include these Gourd vases, from Dhs179.

www.crateandbarrel.com

THIS JUST IN...



ITALIAN STYLE

Mouhajer International Design has launched its first showroom in Jumeriah, Dubai. All pieces in the showroom have been made in Italy with high quality, unique and innovative designs. Visitors to the showroom can also find art, mosaic and arabesque accessories.

www.mouhajerdesign.com



Designer Collection

Lifestyle has just introduced its Calvin Klein Curator collection, which includes stylish and elegant pieces for the living room, dining room, bedroom, library and media rooms. The rich colour palette of the furniture is offset by timeless metal and smoked glass tables and accent items.

www.interiorsfurniture.com



Bold Pattern

Kas Australia's spring collection features bright, unique designs which are sure to add some eye-catching style to your bedroom. Check out this Blue Souq collection, from Dhs379, with its modernised patchwork pattern in hues of blue and bright yellow. www.kasaustralia.ae



ANIMAL MAGIC

Update an outfit with these pretty, blue snakeskin Thunder sandals, Dhs800 from Jimmy Choo at The Luxury Closet.

www.theluxurycloset.com

CHIC CUT-OUT

We love this Baily snow white clutch, Dhs850 from Vince Camuto which features an on-trend cut-work design.

www.vincecamuto.com



ART CORNER

Now is the time to be influenced to update your art collection thanks to Design Days and Art Dubai. Here are our top three favourites...



FROM TOP: Tommy Clarke Boats from Lumitrix, www.lumitrix.com; Almond Blossom by Vincent Van Gogh, available as a print from The Relievo Collection, Fairmont the Palm, Dubai. LEFT: Kamru, Kinnaur, kunalbat@gmail.com.



TOP TRENDS FOR 2015 FROM INDIGO LIVING

Inspired from jewellery, one of the hottest key trend for home décor is going to be Mixed Metals, with copper, bronze, gold and brass showing up everywhere. The combining of different metals to produce an artfully mixed look is one of the defining trends of the season. A matched look is not as striking as a mixed one, so experimenting with melding different metal accents throughout a room will be interesting to see.

Mixed metals work well in tandem with another trend, the perennially cool Parisian 'Left-Bank' Chic. This trend will see a tasteful muted colour palette of taupe furniture serve as an elegant backdrop to contemporary furnishings with vintage-style pieces. The effortlessly cool look works well when combining just the right mix of old and new accents and furniture like an elegant brass and smoked glass dining table that will look perfect alongside retro-style sofas.

Fashions are swiftly evolving when it comes to Modern Asian interiors, which is also one of the most on-trend ways to decorate. The key is to fuse a few traditional pieces within a bright, light contemporary setting.

W: www.indigo-living.com
T: (971) 4 346 6934.

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MAGICAL MATTES

Tom Ford presents Mesmerising Mattes, his latest makeup collection, which includes eight new matte lip colour shades and one cream eye colour. The lip colours range from neutral nudes such as Pink Tease to alluring rich reds such as Flame and Ruby Rush. The illuminating eye colour will add a touch of shimmer and brightness to the eye area and to complete the look Tom Ford Nail Lacquer in deep plum shades of Viper and Bordeaux Lust co-ordinates perfectly.

Available now from all Tom Ford counters.
www.esteeauder-me.com

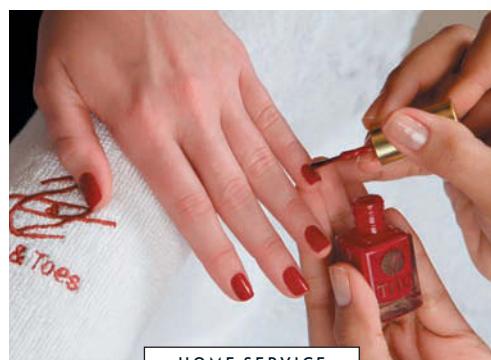


Hotel Life

Aparthotel Adagio has just opened its first UAE property in Al Barsha, Dubai. Ideal for tourists or short term rents for expats, the hotel has a bright and bold contemporary style and competitive rates.

www.adagio-city.com

THIS JUST IN...



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Enjoy a spa day at home with Tips and Toes Home Service. Treatments range from nail care, massages, eyelash extensions, hair care and waxing, all in the comfort of your home making it ideal for busy schedules or for a weekend treat. Bookings from Dhs200 minimum in cash only.

www.tipsandtoes.com



Grand Style

Create a regal look in your home with this grand, velvet Mia lounge chair, POA from 2XL's new collection.

www.2xime.com



Light Up

Clas Ohlson has recently launched its spring/summer collection, which is full of handy and decorative items such as this cute pink tealight holder. Stock up on various colours for a pretty feature on the balcony or terrace.

www.clasohlson.com/ae



Outdoor Living

Fiore Rosso has just introduced its sophisticated range of outdoor furniture. The Skyline Design collection includes modern pieces in rattan wicker and waterproof fabrics in various colours and styles, which are sure to suit all tastes.

www.fiore-rosso.com



INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES FROM INDIGO LIVING

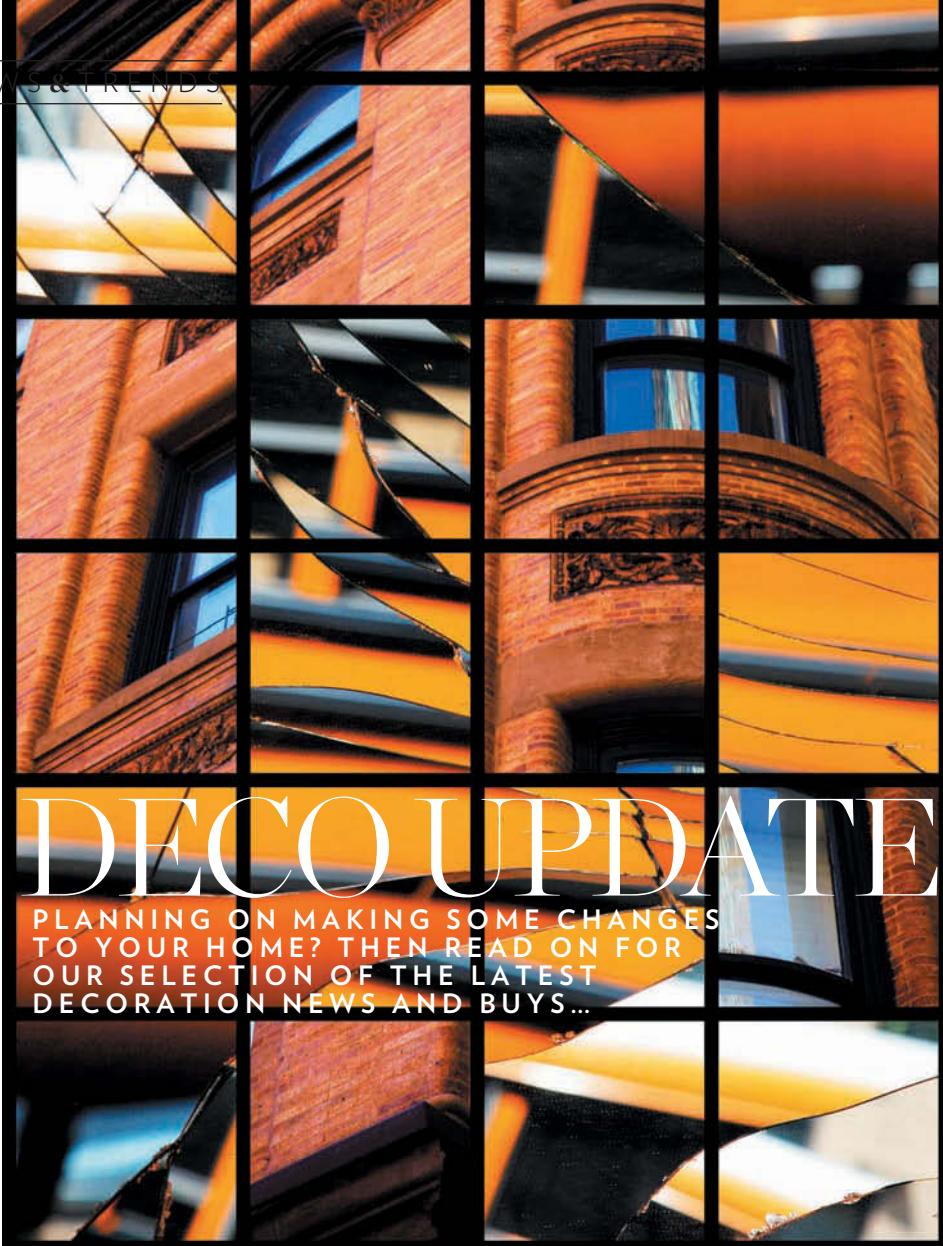
As the popularity of the interior design services continues to grow, many homeowners are looking for original designs and luxurious products at a price which is within reach of Dubai's burgeoning middle and upper class community.

The good news is that, if you're looking to refurbish your home, you don't have to look far. As Dubai's leading destination for fashionable furnishings and home accessories, Indigo Living makes interior design solutions even more accessible, with the help of their expert interior design consultants and a range of interior design services that provide convenience and flexibility.

Interior Design Consultation: Take advantage of a free in-store consultation for your home by simply making an appointment in-store. Or if you prefer a consultation in the comfort of your own home, the Indigo Living team will come to you to discuss thoughts and ideas. With specialization, research and attention to detail, Indigo Living designers will guide you to choose from a range of modern furniture collection and help create beautiful home environments that are unique to each one's budget and lifestyle.

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DECO UPDATE

PLANNING ON MAKING SOME CHANGES TO YOUR HOME? THEN READ ON FOR OUR SELECTION OF THE LATEST DECORATION NEWS AND BUYS...



TOP DECO TRENDS WITH MICHELLE DINSMORE, HEAD VISUAL MERCHANDISER AT HOME CENTRE

THE COLOUR BLUE

Be it a deep shade of Patriot Blue or touches of Grecian sea – this primary colour in all its glory is here to make a statement this year. The easiest way to welcome the hue to your home is by adding a choice of accessories. Accent chairs, a statement chaise, a striking lamp in tonal blues are other exciting ways to include the colour.

GOLD & METALLIC DETAILS

Commit to gold and submit to metallic splendour with subtle touches in the form of accents or a whiff of shimmer.

The great thing about gold and metallic tones is that they lend themselves beautifully to a spectrum of styles from traditional to modern.

Mirrors, lamps, wire frames on furniture or even vases and cushions can bring out the glamorous golds and meteoric metals which are on-trend in 2015.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES AND CUSTOMISATION

This is an exciting trend as we want to put a signature stamp on our favourite things from cushions to mugs. It's also a great way to style your own place and add a touch of your personality.

Home Centre has started monogramming services in their Mall of the Emirates store in Dubai, UAE.

MID CENTURY MODERN

The wave of Fifties revival that was brought in by the pop culture phenomenon that is Mad Men, progresses as the chic series has gone through a new decade. This means there is plenty of room to recreate retro designs and give bohemian culture a chic overhaul. So bring out the Aztec prints, multi-colours, ikat styles, angular shapes and bold patterns.

DESERT LIVING

It's all about earthy drama, conceptualised and constructed from the deserts of the future. Environment, landscape and inhabitants have become inspiration. Warm, burnt out colours of molten lava, nectarine, sand and gold describe the colour story.

Art Attack

One of France's celebrated artists/photographers, Jerome Revon, will be showcasing his work at En Vogue in Dubai, from 18th March and will carry on throughout the month. The artist himself will be there to open the exhibition and discuss the nature of the images. www.envogue.ae



Very Vintage

Sanderson's latest collection celebrates all things vintage in an eclectic mix of cottage florals and whimsical patterns in bright colours. Available in the UAE from Walker Greenbank.

www.walkergreenbank.com

COLOURFUL COLLECTION

Inspired by Chinese landscape painting and the refined art of calligraphy, Shanghai Garden is the latest collection from Designers Guild. Launched in Paris in January, this pretty, elegant range gives a contemporary twist to the ancient form of Chinese painting and depicts themes such as bamboo, willow trees, temples and blossom in a mix of shades and palettes.

www.maisondart.ae



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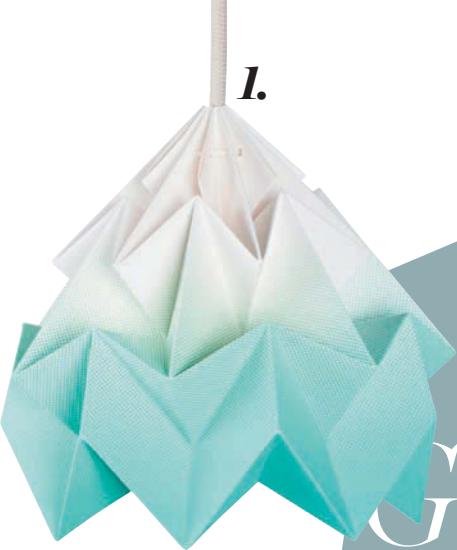
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THE DETAILS

1. **Snowpuppe - Moth lampshade, mint gradient, Dhs368, Thekidwho.eu**
2. **Diamante table lamp, Dhs89, Home Centre**
3. **Tracery Accent table, Dhs3,940, Ethan Allen**
4. **Camden Town bag, Dhs1,130, Radley**
5. **Dipoli side table in white, Dhs5,070 Andrew Martin**
6. **Geometric necklace, Dhs2,277, Marni**
7. **Mosaic cushion, Dhs915, S'lice Gifts**
8. **Ranya cushion cover, Dhs59, THE ONE**
9. **Kite cushion, Dhs259, Indigo Living**
10. **Ellora red rug, Dhs2,620, The Rug Company**
11. **Pink circle neon print, Dhs272, Indie.com.au**
12. **Geometric Lamp, Dhs335, Etsy.com**
13. **Jillian Geometric bag, Dhs275, Bebe**
14. **White green multi dress, Dhs650, Vince Camuto**
15. **Retro bone frame, Dhs149, Indigo Living**
16. **Geometric tea cosy, Dhs85, Andshine.co.uk**
17. **Cape Wire Bowl in turquoise, Dhs455, Safarifusion.com.au**
18. **Geometric cup and saucer, from Dhs55, Zara Home.**

2.



3.



4.



5.



6.







Bold and Beautiful

Cities Design and Lifestyle Store owner, Hazem Eljesr, has transformed his two-bedroom JBR apartment in to a contemporary colourful haven.

Words: Rosalind Erskine Photography: Aasiya Jagadeesh

Left: the bright living room with royal blue feature wall. Right: Hazem Eljesr; a pink crystal Panther adds interest; the cabinet of curiosities.

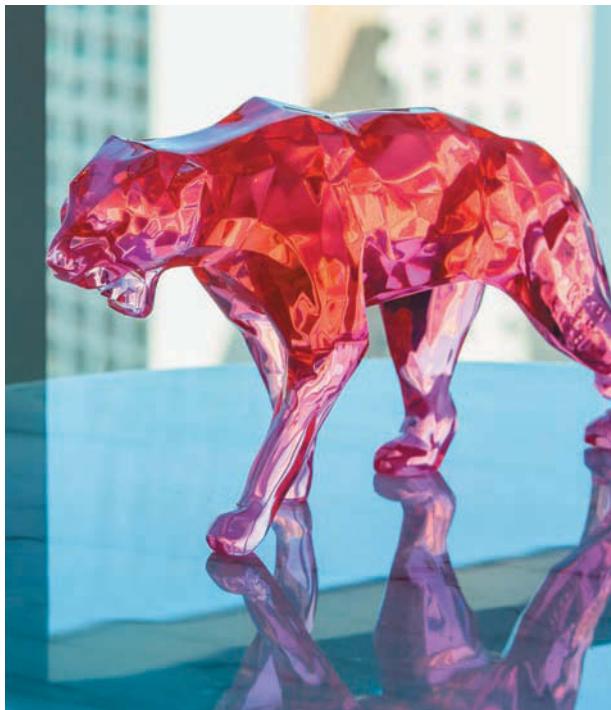


“I love the JBR area and I knew that I wanted to have a view of so many of the things that Dubai is famous for: the beach, the Palm, the Burj Al Arab.”



Not many people living in Dubai can boast of an uninterrupted sea view, not least of one that is likely to remain this way, but Hazem Eljesr can, and it was this plus the sought-after JBR location that sold his home to him; “I love the JBR area and I knew that I wanted to have a view of so many of the things that Dubai is famous for: the beach, the Palm, the Burj Al Arab. I also considered the buildings around me; I knew that nothing would be constructed in front of my building to block my view, and the area is just going to grow and expand even more. I love that the apartment has a balcony and it’s up high. One of my favourite things to do is to sit out on the balcony every morning and watch the world wake up around me” the Cities Boutique owner explains. His store, which opened in the Galleria Mall in Dubai at the end of last year, stocks a range of contemporary furniture and accessories from local and international designers, some of which can be seen in Hazem’s apartment. But when it came to the main colours, it was the coveted view which was the biggest influence; “I think I took a lot of inspiration from the sea. I’ve used quite a few shades of blue, so I think that the view from the house had an influence on the colours I used. My goal was to create an atmosphere that reflected my personality and was filled with colour and innovation. It was important that the space be visually interesting, but comfortable as well. I also wanted to create a space that would be a perfect backdrop for all of my living needs; from relaxing at home alone to entertaining groups of friends” says Hazem.

It is this relaxed style which is carried on throughout each room in the apartment and doesn’t stick to a traditional ‘design’ of a room. There are many surprising and unexpected combinations of furniture, colour and accessories, especially in the living area, some of which have come from Hazem’s travels. It is this room that Hazem admits to being his favourite space; “most of the pieces that are special to me are in the living room. It’s designed for comfort and relaxation, and I enjoy spending time there





“I think I took a lot of inspiration from the sea. I’ve used quite a few shades of blue, so I think that the view from the house had an influence on the colours.”





Left: The aqua-marine master bedroom; the colourful living room with seating areas; desk area in the bedroom; the JBR and sea-view.



surrounded by all of these objects that mean something to me. I'm very pleased with the decor, it's eclectic and a mix of colours and textures and time periods, but they all mesh together in a very pleasing fashion." Like the rest of the rooms it is an eclectic mix filled with colour and consists of two seating areas, brought to life by a royal blue feature wall. Hazem discusses some of the key pieces; "on the blue accent wall there is a display case which has several works of art by Nadine Kanso, a Lebanese artist who lives in Dubai. She's a jewellery designer, and I have several small gold art pieces of hers that are delicate and charming. Centered in front of the window, I have a Tulip table by Eero Saarinen and a limited edition translucent rose panther sculpture by Richard Orlinski is displayed there. Mirroring the blue of the wall is a piece that I am very proud of, it's a landscape by French painter Maurice de Vlaminck. He was a Fauvist, known for his use of bright colours, but this painting is a bit dark. I love how it picks up the blue from the wall and it's an interesting piece in the midst of my more modern objects. The living room is also where I display my collection of skateboard deck art by Greek-American artist Fotis Gerakis. His creations are filled with colour and symbolism and they offer a nice contrast in colour and style." It is from the living room that Hazem can access the main balcony and enjoy the



view. Here, again, colours can be seen in the cushions and stools but it is the abundance of plants and quirky accessories which create this al-fresco oasis.

The bedrooms are much simpler in terms of decoration, making them slightly calmer and the blue colour theme continues in the walls here, and the hallway.

When it came to the design Hazem was happy to draw on his own ideas; "I didn't use an interior designer. I had my own ideas of how I wanted to do things, and I was in no rush. I enjoyed the process of piecing everything together until it became a coherent space. And I didn't want to be limited, I want to feel free to expand and evolve in my style as I continue to live there." And what would he change? "I'm very happy with the apartment, so any changes would be minor. If I could, I would probably like to have a bit more space in the laundry room, and bigger closets. I think everyone always wants bigger closets."

www.citiesdubai.com

Clockwise from left: Fotis Gerakis skateboard artwork; the royal blue accent wall with artwork and wooden moulded chair; cute and colourful Light House lanterns by Normann Copenhagen.





Get the look

Bold colours and eclectic modern furniture and accessories create Hazem's unique home.



THE DETAILS

1. **Velvet Chesterfield sofa**, Dhs5,321, 2XL
2. **Light House lantern** Dhs460, Normann Copenhagen
3. **Boboli cushion cover**, Dhs249, THE ONE
4. **Gingko lattice cushion cover**, Dhs225, C. Wonder
5. **Tapis Kilim rose rug**, Dhs4,465, KSL-living.fr
6. **Eames DSW side chair**, POA, Swisscotec.com
7. **Yellow ceramic apple sculpture by Bull and Stein**, Dhs1,148, Cities
8. **Khaled El Mays cone shaped legs console**, Dhs10,728, Cities
9. **Zhou Dog decoration**, Dhs899, THE ONE
10. **Villstad stool in turquoise**, Dhs395, IKEA
11. **Ceramic vase in fools gold**, Dhs86, Indie.com.au

COLOURFUL CREATION

Just like the jewellery she designs, Nadine Kanso's home is a contemporary expression of Arab culture.

Photography: Danny Allison

Left: the bright pink dining room with statement pendant light.
Right: Collage of inspiration.



When Nadine Kanso first saw her Jumeirah villa 15 years ago, it was love at first sight. It had everything Nadine wanted for a family home: a big garden, a great location facing Jumeirah Beach Park, and a pool. It also had great bones,

so the jewellery designer and creator of the Bil Arabi line never felt the need for a gut renovation. "Over the years I have had some changes done, but nothing major. We removed the wall to wall carpet and changed the décor. Other than that the décor has acquired layers over time: with more artwork, more books and pictures. We have changed the dining tables and chairs. There's always something happening in our house," Nadine says of the organic way her home has been decorated.

With her two boys, who are now 17 and 15, having grown up in the house, it's no wonder that the home has a cosy, lived-in vibe. And thanks to Nadine's passion for Arab art and culture, it's also a home with a lot of verve and character, where kitsch mingles with high art with easy familiarity. What stands out immediately of course is her fierce, unapologetic love of bold colour. The living room walls are a bright lavender while the dining room walls, a saturated strawberry pink. "What can I say? I am a very colourful person," Nadine laughs, "I have always had bold colours on the walls. They used to be yellow and orange before. Every now and then I change the colours as I believe this is what adds warmth and character to the house."

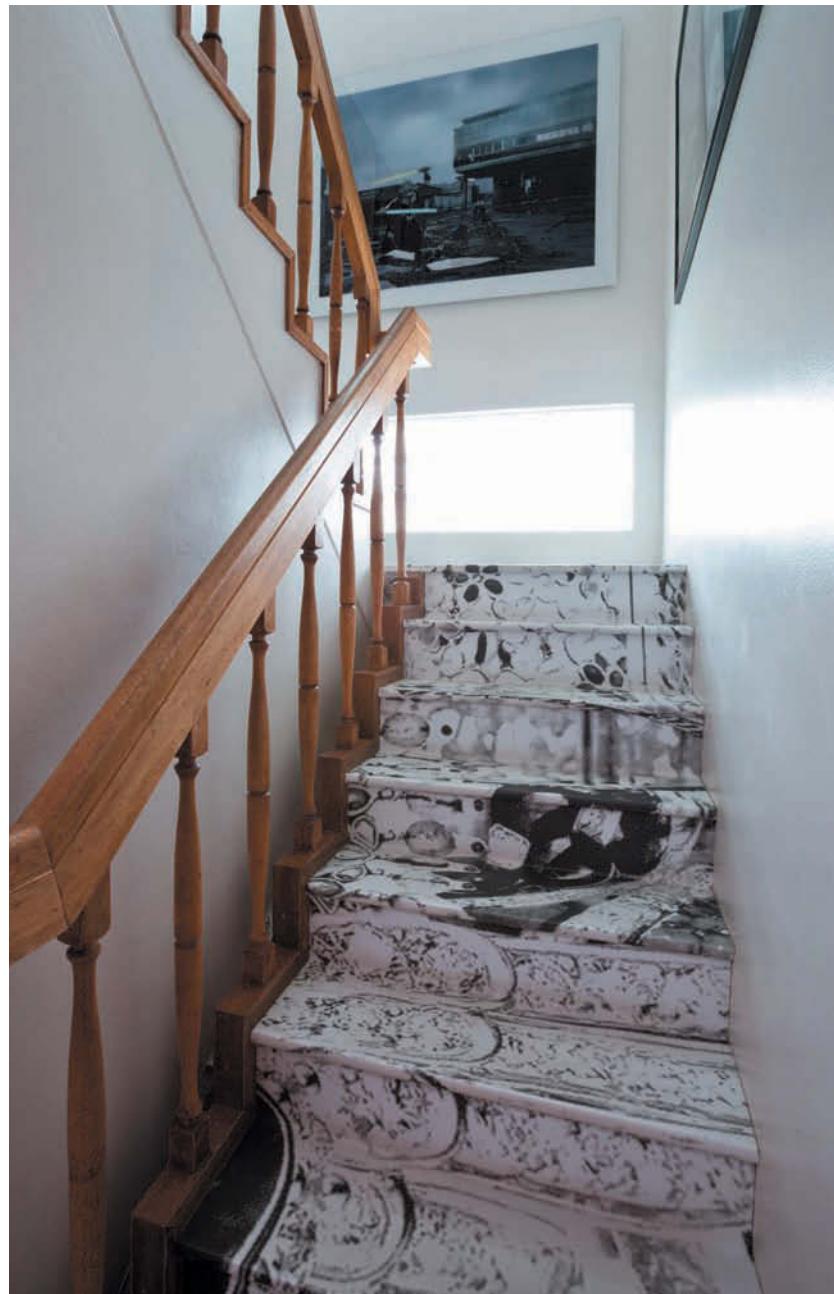
In the entrance lobby of Nadine's house stands a vintage desk inherited from father-in-law. It's been in the family for over 45 years and travelled from Beirut to Dubai to Canada and Prague, along with Nadine's family. Above the desk hangs an image by Cedric Delsaux from his Dark Lens series – the artist who imaginatively inserts Star Wars characters and vehicles into urban industrial contexts. It's juxtaposed with a collection of picture frames and objets d'art in fluorescent hues – a decoupage peg table with Arab filmstars and a bright pink Qee bear. You can't help but smile. It's an entrance lobby that is individualistic, eccentric and witty – quite like the rest of the home.

"I like things that have a character. My home isn't big or fancy but what's nice about it is that when people come in they don't want to leave. It's friendly. Of course my penchant for design and fashion comes in the way I use colour and how I display things." The usual shelves and bookcases are not for Nadine. In her house, you'll find an old Singer machine that she found by the wayside, now repurposed as a display table. A phone booth is converted into a curio cabinet and a dresser in the dining room has a collection of artistic candlesticks.

Mixed with these are statement pieces, such as the stunning lamp in the dining room that she bought from The Odd Piece. "I love



Left: Nadine Kanso. Clockwise from right: Nadine's vintage desk, with colourful accessories; the vinyl patterned staircase.





“I like things that have a character. My home isn’t big or fancy but what’s nice about it is that when people come in they don’t want to leave. It’s friendly.”



Main image:
Nadine's purple
living room with
eclectic artwork.
Below: colourful
cakes; vintage
radio collection.

“I have always had bold colours on the walls. They used to be yellow and orange before. Every now and then I change the colours as I believe this is what adds warmth and character.”



vintage pieces as well as the fun and quirky pieces from Sauce Gifts,” Nadine adds.

A keen photographer, Nadine’s pictures also hang on the walls alongside some of her other favourite art photographers such as the Iranian artist Reza Aramesh and the Egyptian artist Karem Mahrous. You’ll find art inserted in this house in the most unusual of ways – Nadine super enlarged a collage of her black and white pictures and with a friend’s help printed it on vinyl and applied it to the staircase. The abstract patterns make a livelier statement than any carpeting could. A collection of vintage radios are part of an installation from last year’s Formula 1 in Abu Dhabi, when Nadine used them to display her jewellery designs. “Whenever I travel I buy things I like,” Nadine explains. Her eclectic house is testimony to a life well lived, and her love of art, beauty and culture. ■■■





Get the look

Nadine's bright home is a mix of modern and vintage finds with splashes of pink and purple.



1



2



4



5



THE COLOUR

Red

Dulux Volcanic Splash 3



THE TEXTURE

Tile



6



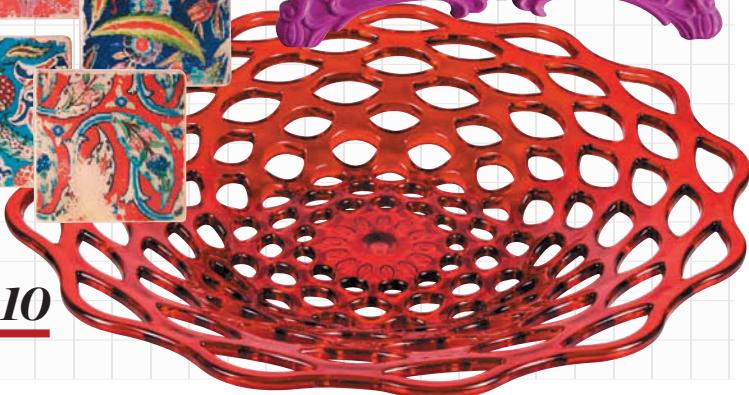
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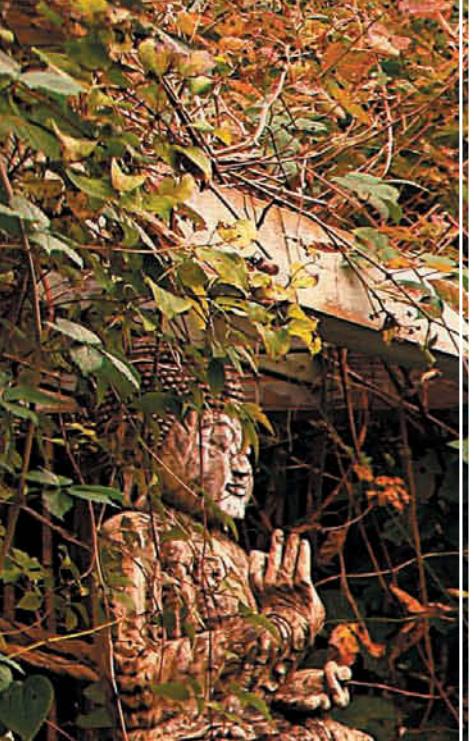
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10

THE DETAILS

1. **Soderhamn three-seat section sofa**, Dhs1,600, [Ikea](#)
2. **Jaipur pink rug**, Dhs2,620, [The Rug Company](#)
3. **Stephanie dining chair**, POA, [Oficinainglesa.com](#)
4. **Flower teacup and saucer**, Dhs65, [Zara Home](#)
5. **Hamilton Conte-Zeppelin Opal Light Pendant**, Dhs4,161, [LuxDeco.com](#)
6. **Cotton stripe cushion**, Dhs45, [Homes R Us](#)
7. **Spiegel Barock pink frame**, Dhs55, [Trendstyle-online.de](#)
8. **Zander 4-drawer dresser**, Dhs7,499, [Crate and Barrel](#)
9. **Ceramic coasters**, Dhs180, [Virgule](#)
10. **Felicia fruit plate**, Dhs49, [Home Centre](#)



Above: Jack Pearson.
Main image: the charming garden with guest cottage, which
Jack has updated and maintained.





Secret GARDEN

Real Estate Broker, Jack Pearson, found his dream home in the Hamptons thanks to its original features and charming garden.

Photography GAP Interiors/Costas Picadas, Text – GAP Interiors/Dlux Images.

Growing up in the Midwest, Jack Pearson developed a passion for gardening that would eventually inspire his decision to purchase a home in the Hamptons section of New York. In fact, the real estate broker was instantly attracted to the home, remarking that the 3,000 square foot house reminded him of the wisteria and ivy draped estate in the film *Howard's End*. "I bought the house in 10 minutes," he recalls, "then when I was having my closing, what was funny is that I had only been to the house once."

A job at Bloomingdale's Fur Salon originally brought Jack to New York, where he would also work for Sachs before getting into the real estate business. The only thing he didn't have was a garden, possibly explaining why the 1920s house he saw that fateful day caught his eye. Further reflecting on his decision to purchase the home, Jack says, "I came here and walked inside the living room and I saw the coffered ceilings and the wood shingle and the makings of a garden." That was all he needed to make his decision.

While the garden, laid out by designer Joseph Cornetta, is English-inspired, Jack describes it as "quite broad in its presentation of plant material into really what I think is an incredible display of perennials and roses and hydrangeas." The nearby pool, added during renovations, was designed to look more like a reflecting pool rather than a recreational pool. He achieved a Zen feel within his outdoor spaces by adding a waterfall along with a Buddha that some friends picked up for him during their travels. Incidentally, several of his roses have won prestigious local awards.

As for the house, Jack decided to transform the place to what he envisioned as its original state, "a rambling cottage with lots of French doors, lots of character and a lot of wood," as he describes it. The house, retaining its period coffered ceilings and ship-lapped-wood walls, has four bedrooms, four bathrooms, a living room, a kitchen and dining area and a guest cottage with its own guest bathroom that also functions as a wellness center where Jack does yoga. Mr. Cornetta and another designer, Adam Leskinen, advised Jack on how to effectively bring his vision for the home to life.

The neoclassical living room, with its original pumpkin pine floors and beams, has a diverse collection of furniture and accessories with a sisal rug underneath. The soft-white sofas are accessorised with pillows made by Indian tribes with a special kind of fabric inspired from their tribal backgrounds. The 18th century walnut butler's desk and the corner cabinet belonged to Jack's great-grandparents.

Newer cream-colored upholstery was added to the

"I came here and walked inside the living room and I saw the coffered ceilings and the wood shingle and the makings of a garden."



Clockwise from top: A Marilyn Monroe artwork dominates the dining area; collection of accessories make a feature; monochrome vases and prints add to the colour scheme.







Left: the monochrome bedroom with Sleigh bed and twenties mirror and pure white master bathroom.

Asian-inspired bamboo-like coffee table. Accessories in the room include antique silver sports trophies, part of a collection, silver trays from India and a horn-infused side-table. The artwork and wall decor in the living room includes four Matisse ladies, some Marc Chagall botanical prints and a combination of modern and antique mirrors. Jack's art collection also includes works by Picasso, Georges Braque and Warhol along with selected works by local artists, including Judy Clifford, whom he hired to produce oil paintings depicting his garden.

Jack's passion for plant life is also evident indoors, most notably with a series of black and white botanicals on the wall across from the cherry and walnut dining room table that's surrounded by vintage chairs from the 1930s. The 19th century sideboard belonged to his grandmother. Additional character is added to the dining room with an antique mirror and a Masters Italian-inspired oil painting of two men enjoying pasta. Some colour is added to the new eat-in kitchen, decorated in natural tones, with a Warhol painting of Marilyn Monroe and a Matisse cut-out picture titled "The Sadness of the King." The area is completed with a French country hutch and a large farm table.

Jack's office was originally the home's fifth bedroom. A similar transformation occurred when the original kitchen, not far from the guest bedroom decorated with works by Picasso and Braque, became a butler's pantry with a new side entrance added. The office walls are unique in that they are covered with a type of fabric canvas trimmed in black grosgrain studded with rope trim. His cherry wood desk is complemented by a liquor cabinet from the 18th century that was passed down from his grandfather to his father before ending up in Jack's home.

The coffered ceiling in the living-room is recreated in the bigger master bedroom that's upstairs. Jack refers to this bedroom as "a study in black and white," a characterisation supported by the leather-backed sleigh bed with a '20s Deco mirror above it and a mix of artwork from both iconic painters and local artists. The white bathroom is enhanced with some silver tones and horizontal shiplap. The fixtures are Old English brushed nickel.

The two guestrooms include one with a blue velvet headboard on the bed, a big mirror trimmed in gold, a refurbished 19th century dresser with a granite top and the home's original wood floors that,



according to Jack, still creak. The other bedroom, the smallest of the bedrooms referred to as "the bamboo room," is done in Sag Harbor gray. The guest cottage, designed to be a garden suite, includes a living area, a sleeping area, a kitchenette and a bathroom.

Sharing some final thoughts on Huntington Abbey, a nickname his friends gave to the home, Jack notes that "people walk in, and it is truly a secret garden because it's very nestled, very private, with tall hedges and beautiful old trees." When asked to select a favourite place in the home, Jack chooses the patio, furnished with Italian sofas, umbrellas and African side tables, because he is "surrounded by the boxwood globes, the flowers, climbing roses, camellias, clematis and hydrangeas in every direction, so it's a way for me to be in a living space but to be outside and enjoy the garden."

"On the patio I am surrounded by the boxwood globes, the flowers, climbing roses; it's a way for me to enjoy the garden."



Above top: the patio area is Jack's favourite places as he is "surrounded by the boxwood globes, the flowers, climbing roses, camellias, clematis and hydrangeas in every direction, so it's a way for me to be in a living space but to be outside and enjoy the garden."

Above: Jack's love of plants and gardening can be seen throughout the house.





Get the look

Sophisticated furniture in a monochrome and neutral colour palette create this timeless home.



THE DETAILS

1. Stockholm rug, Dhs695, Ikea
2. Marilyn print by Tamer Khalifa Dhs4,000, Iris Noir
3. Quincy bed, from Dhs9,120, Ethan Allen
4. Monochrome cushion, Dhs395, Amy-sia.com
5. Naghmeh Kiumarsi Marilyn Monroe cushion, Dhs395, Virgule
6. White dresser, Dhs25,530, Flamant
7. Louise Roe black and white tiles bed linen, from Dhs100, Norsu.com.au
8. Aurlie mirror, Dhs1,382, Sweetpeaandwillow.com
9. Short teardrop vase, Dhs780, Ethan Allen
10. Gentil arm chair by Kravet, Dhs17,240, En Vogue
11. Mia table lamp, Dhs899, THE One
12. Black and white bolster cushion, Dhs416, Cranmorehome.com.au
13. Ektorp Jennylund armchair, Dhs645, Ikea

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ART DUBAI 2015

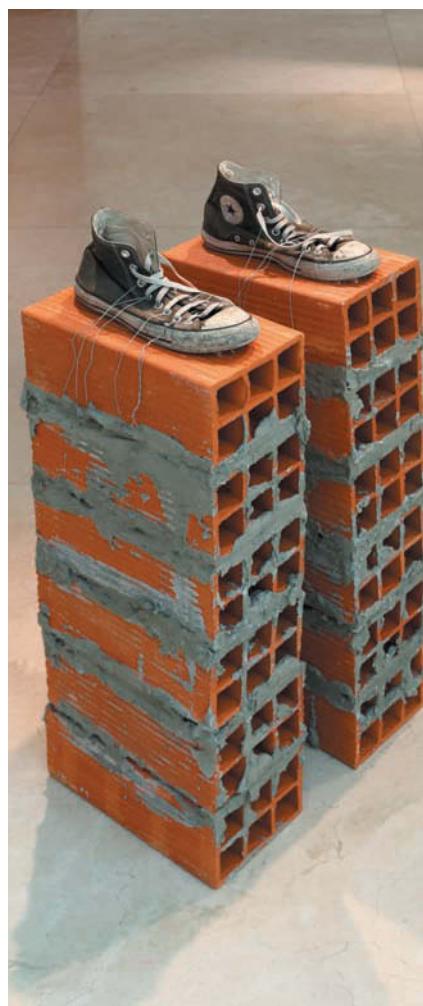
Now in its ninth year, Art Dubai has become a landmark international fair for artists from far and wide. We take a look at what's happening this year, from 18th-21st March, and chat to Antonia Carver, the Fair Director about this year's bumper show.

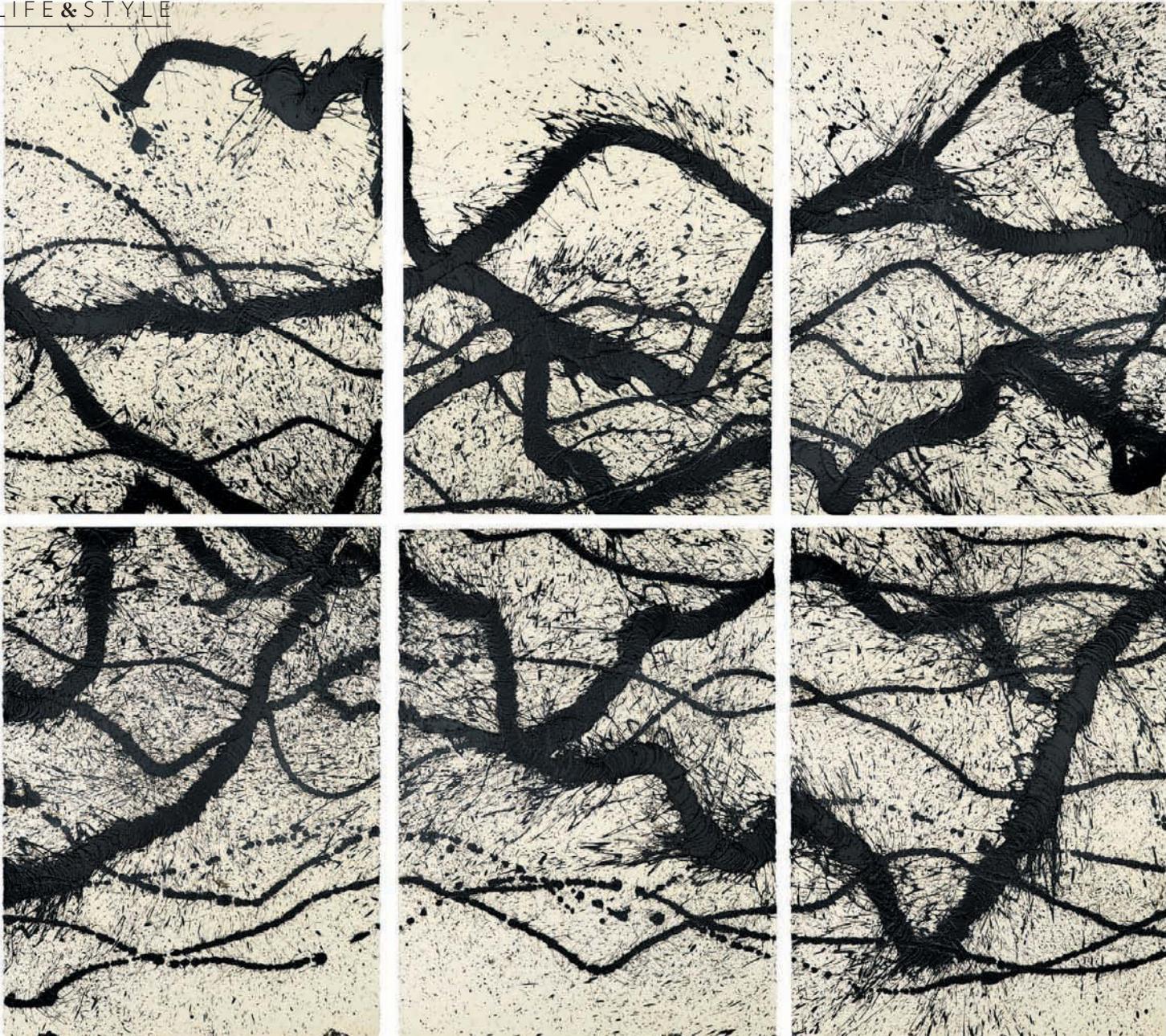


Left: Art Dubai 2014, Art Dubai 2014 Patron's Preview, 2014, Art Dubai 2014.
Below: Felipe Salem, Giant, 2011, 84 x 32 x 37 cm, Courtesy of Museo de Arte Latinoame

As the region's leading cultural and artistic event, Art Dubai is at the centre of Dubai's busy calendar of events and finds its home, once again, within the tranquil surrounding of the Madinat. Artists from all over the globe will travel to showcase their work – from the established to those just starting out, Art Dubai has become, over the last nine years, a true international institution and a cog in the increasingly dynamic programs of events to promote culture in the region. This year sees the event grow even bigger as the gallery halls will include 91 galleries from 40 countries presented through three programmes – Contemporary, Modern and Marker. Art Dubai's extensive, not-for-profit programmes includes Art Dubai Projects; an exhibition of works by winners of the

annual The Abraaj Group Art Prize; a range of educational programmes including Sheikha Manal Little Artists and the community school Campus Art Dubai and the critically-acclaimed Global Art Forum. Art Dubai is part of Art Week, an umbrella initiative that showcases the broad programme of cultural events that now coincide with the fair each March, the most dynamic time in the UAE's cultural calendar. Special events include Design Days Dubai (see page 64 for more), the only fair in Asia dedicated to product and furniture design; Sikka, a fair run by Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, dedicated to new work by UAE-based artists; and Galleries Nights, featuring over 40 new exhibitions across Al Quoz and the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC); plus other projects, museum shows and major events throughout the Emirates, Qatar and the Gulf.





With so much to see and do, we take a look and highlight the must see's...

GLOBAL ART FORUM 2015

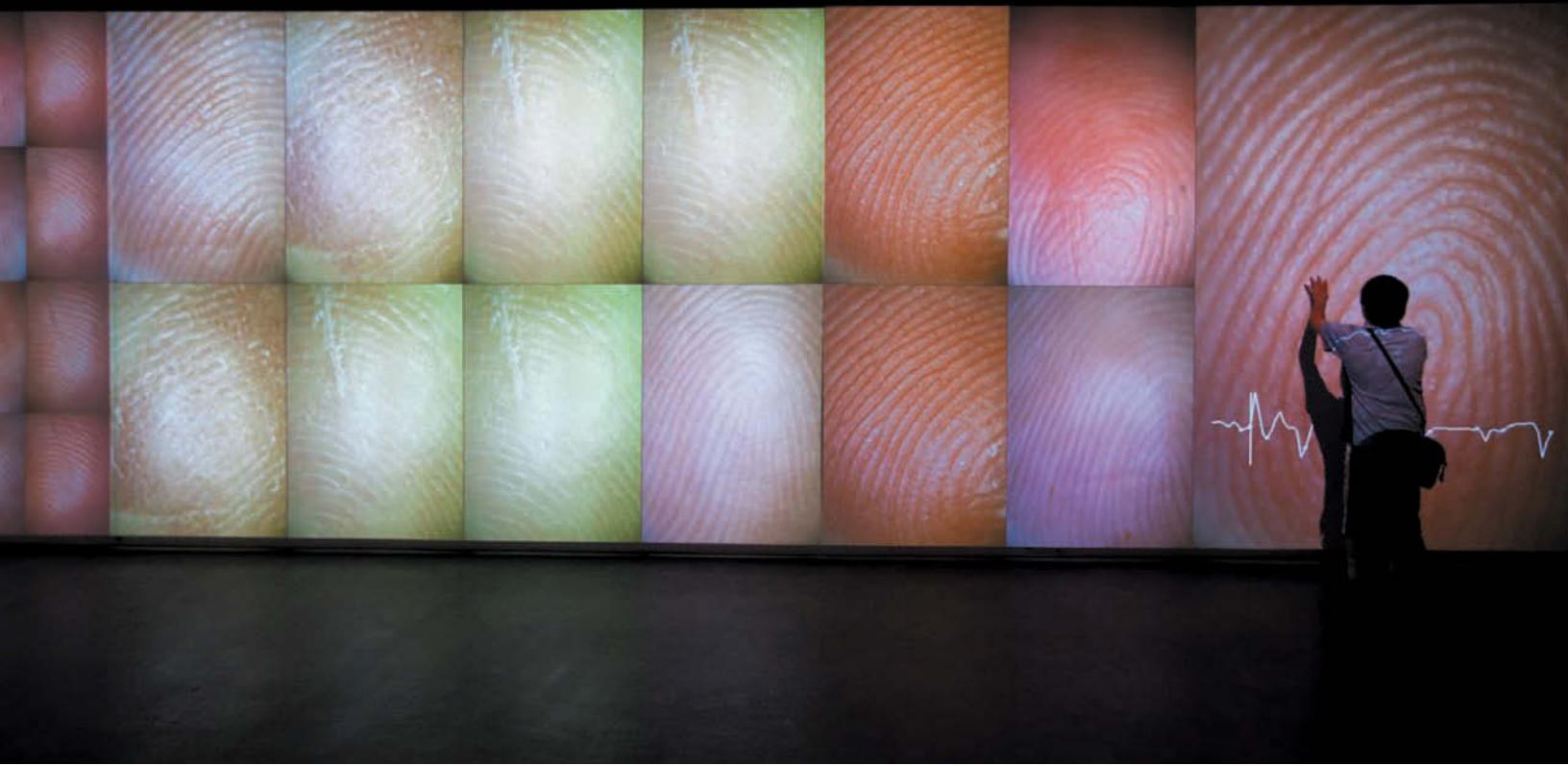
This year the Global Art Forum takes on the theme of technologies and their impact on the world of art, culture and beyond and is titled 'Download Update?' Known as an innovative and leading platform for cultural debate and featuring live talks and presentations, the Forum takes place over five days beginning, for the first time, in Kuwait from 14th-15th March before continuing at Art Dubai. 50 local and international contributors participate in this ninth edition which is co-directed by Turi Munthe and Sultan Sououd Al Qassemi, with Shumon Basar as Director-at-Large. The line-up of speakers ranges from those at the forefront of new developments in technology – including Jawbone founder Alexander Asseily, M3/Relativity design director Christopher Bevans, Google Cultural Project director Amit Sood and digital education innovator Ayesha Khanna – to artists, writers and curators engaging with technologies in particularly innovative ways, including Lawrence Abu Hamdan,

Amar Bakshi, James Bridle, Manal Al Dowayan, Cécile B. Evans, Omar Kholeif, Dan O'Hara, The Otolith Group and Troy Therrien.

ART DUBAI PROJECTS

Art Dubai Projects is a not-for-profit programme of new works and performances that explores the fabric and economy of an art fair, embracing the theatrical nature of such an event. Art Dubai Projects 2015 features 11 artists and collectives, participating in the A.i.R Dubai residency and projects programme, as well as Art Dubai Commissions; both programmes are curated by Lara Khaldi, who is an independent curator based between Ramallah and Amsterdam. She recently completed the de Appel curatorial Programme, Amsterdam, and is also pursuing her MA degree at the European Graduate School. Khaldi was director of Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre, Ramallah from 2012-2013. In 2015, the residency programme is particularly diverse: UAE-based artists selected via a competitive Open Call include the established, Khorfakkan-based artist Mohammed Ahmed

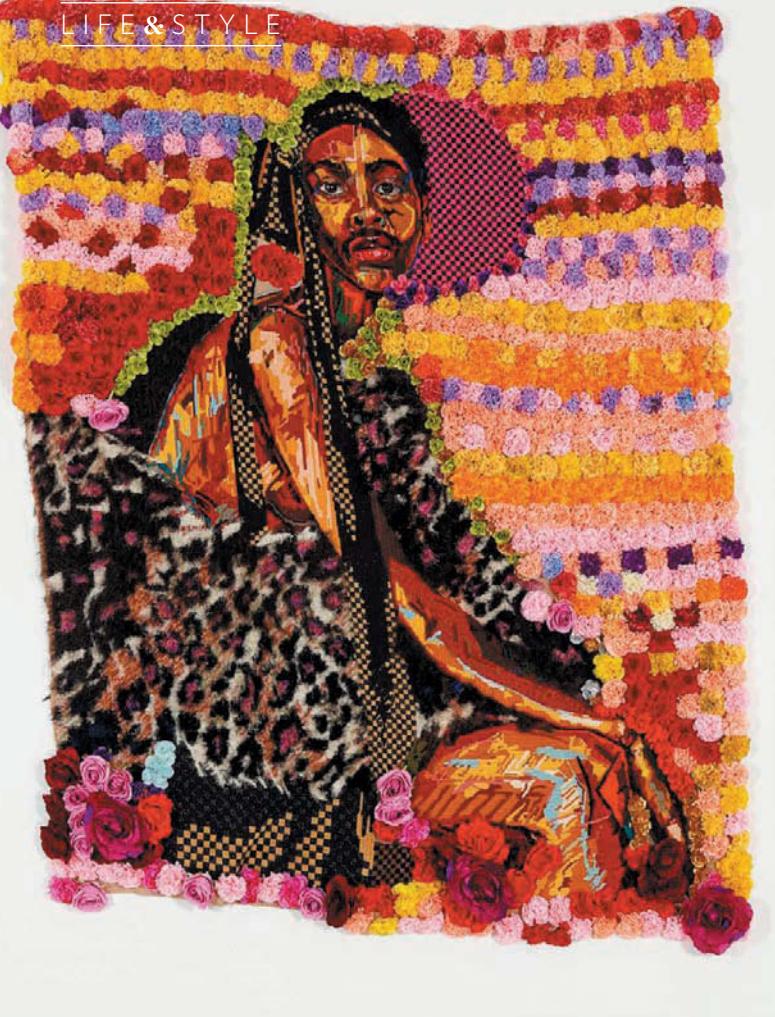




Far Left: Fabienne Verdier, Serie 'Walking-Painting', Polyptyqu, 2013, 366 x 399 cm (six panels), Courtesy of the artist and Galerie.

Below Left: Leila Alaoui, Les Marocains, Souk de Boumia, Moyer, 2011, 150 x 100 cm - Edition de 3, Courtesy of Art Factum. Above: Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Pulse Index, installation view, Syd, 2010, 58 inch Plasma monitor, projection, Courtesy of Carroll Fletcher.

Left: Hossein Valamanesh, Snakes and Ladders no. 3, 2014, 210 x 210 x 14.0 cm, Courtesy the artist and GAGPROJECTS.



Ibrahim; photographer and writer Hind Mezaina; Sharmeen Syed, whose practice references architectural research; and painter and multi-media artist Jessica Mein. The artists joining them in the residency from abroad are the Amsterdam-based, former Rijksakademie resident Mehraneh Atashi, who works in photography, video and installation and has been recently pre-occupied with the concept of entropy, as well as Beirut-based artist Rheim Alkadhi, who weaves poetic collages from objects, texts, and images.

THE ABRAAJ GROUP ART PRIZE

The Abraaj Group Art Prize is a prize for artists from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia which uniquely rewards proposals rather than completed works-of-art. The annual prize and accompanying exhibition aim to empower potential and give often under-represented contemporary artists the resources to further develop their talent. It offers a platform for recognising particularly notable artists in the region, affording the winner the opportunity of developing an ambitious project and for showcasing their work on an international stage to museum directors, curators, critics, gallerists, their peers, and the public.

Founded in 2008 and is now in its seventh edition and the collection comprises 26 artworks. To date, the 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 works were presented at Art Dubai and artworks then gone on loan to exhibitions. The prize reflects Abraaj's own investment philosophy, which is to take viable businesses with great potential, and create regional and global champions.

Above:
Manhostage.
Uddermaker,
Athi-Patra Ruga,
2014, Wool and
thread on
tapestry canvas,
Courtesy of
the artist and
WHATIFTH.



INTERVIEW WITH ANTONIA CARVER, FAIR DIRECTOR

WHO ARE YOUR TOP THREE 'ONES TO WATCH' AT THIS YEAR'S ART DUBAI AND WHY?

This is such a tricky task, given the huge diversity among around 500 artists exhibiting at Art Dubai 2015, across three gallery halls, with 92 galleries hailing from 40 countries, plus the residencies and commissions programme. We make it our mission to showcase the world's most renowned artists alongside fresh, upcoming artists, many from Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Whether you're a seasoned art collector or starting a fledgling collection for the first time – or an enthusiast who enjoys looking – Art Dubai has works for everyone.

I'M GOING TO GO FOR THREE GALLERIES TO WATCH...

Kurimanzutto – Mexico's most established gallery showing in the Middle East for the first time, with a roll-call of Latin American greats, including Abraham Cruzvillegas and Adrian Villar Rojas, plus international artists. Their booth exhibition in the centre of Hall 1 in Art Dubai Contemporary is a packed with some of the world's hottest artists.

What if the World – not only do WITW have the best name in the fair, but they also have one of the most dynamic booth exhibitions. This young, funky gallery from Capetown has a roster of upcoming artists from South Africa and across the continent and is a real must-see.

Galerie Janine Rubeiz – over in Art Dubai Modern (located in Mina A'Salam), Lebanon's Janine Rubeiz Gallery devotes its booth to Jamil Molaeb, a renowned Lebanese painter whose woodcuts and gorgeously colourful landscapes from the 1970s are another must-see.

WHAT MAKES THIS YEAR'S ART DUBAI DIFFERENT?

I'm really excited about Marker, curated by Luiza Teixeira de Freitas, which focuses on Latin America and its connections with the Middle East. Luiza's programme is a real audience-draw and features sound, music, film, performance and a fantastic group show with works by around 30 artists from across Latin America. This is the first time there's been a Latin American showcase in the Gulf region, and it's a real chance to get to know these incredibly vibrant art scenes.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DUBAI'S CURRENT ARTS SCENE? HOW DOES IT COMPARE REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY?

Dubai's art scene is quite unique: within the space of a decade, the number of galleries in the city as quadrupled (to around 40 nowadays) and it is now firmly established as the art market centre for the region – including the Arab world, Iran and increasingly, Pakistan. A not-for-profit sector of studios, educational initiatives, publishers etc is now springing up, too. Besides this year-round local activity, Dubai is also a hub – the story of the city's meteoric rise as a centre for business, banking, travel and communications is of course super well-known, but Dubai's growth as a cultural destination is less hackneyed. Of course, the solidity of the business sector, and the supremacy of the airport, have been instrumental in Dubai's status as a meeting point for the art world.

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The pretty floral crockery, which will look right at home in a country-inspired kitchen includes, from left: the Orchid Green porcelain 98pc dinner set from Dankotuwa (Dhs2,895), Papillion beige acrylic tray, Maryam Green Bone China 97pc BC dinner set (Dhs4,250).

For those looking for an up-to-the-minute gadget then the colourful Kenwood KMX80 Stand mixer (Dhs1,999), Delonghi Prima Donna S coffee machine (Dhs6,495) and the Delonghi Multifry (Dhs1,499) won't fail to disappoint.

Design Days 2015

Now in its fourth year, *Design Days Dubai* is the place to check out up and coming designers as well as established names, showcasing forthcoming trends. We've picked our top six exhibitors and asked some experts on the ones to watch this year.



Far left: Ettore Sottsass for Memphis Milano Tahiti Polychrome enameled metal, and black and white confetti-patterned laminate base, 1981
 Left: Verner Panton Moon lamp Chrome, plastic, 1960
 Below: Georges Amatoury Studio Tetra S, Tetra L Hand patinated silver leaf, tinted sycamore and polished stainless steel, 2014.



ARDECO GALLERY

Founded in Beirut in 1998, Ardeco showcases furniture, lighting and decorative items from the 30's to 70's, collected from France, alongside contemporary high-end French furniture brands Hugues Chevalier Paris. For this year's Design Days, Ardeco Gallery bridges the gap between modernity and old-world glamour in timeless yet contemporary furniture and art.

www.ardeco.org



TASHKEEL

Established in 2008 by Lateefa bint Maktoum, Tashkeel is an independent contemporary art organisation based in Dubai committed to facilitating art and design practice, creative experimentation and cross-cultural dialogue. Placing the artist at the core, Tashkeel supports the UAE's creative community through studio facilities, artists' residencies, international fellowships, a programme of exhibitions, events and professional as well as recreational workshops. A panel of internationally-established contemporary design experts have selected four UAE-based designers, who will be showcasing their bespoke pieces at this year's Design Days. www.tashkeel.org



EXPERT PANEL

WE'VE ASKED THREE EXPERTS TO TELL US WHO TO LOOK OUT FOR AT THIS YEAR'S EXHIBITION AND ALSO HOW TO INCLUDE CONTEMPORARY DESIGNS IN TO YOUR HOME.



GINA BIRKHOFER
FROM CACHET



KHALED EL MAYS
WHO IS EXHIBITING AS PART OF CITIES



KHALID MEZAINA
FROM TASHKEEL



KHALID MEZAINA,
STUDIO COORDINATOR
AT TASHKEEL

PHOTOGRAPHY: TULIP HAZBAR

WHO ARE YOUR TOP THREE 'ONES TO WATCH' AT THIS YEAR'S DESIGN DAYS?

I actually have a top four:

Talin Hazbar, is Aleppo-born and raised in the UAE and a recipient of various regional and international art awards. She explores structure and the material possibilities of natural resources.

Rand Abdul Jabbar moved to the UAE in 1995 from Iraq. She is creating 'Forma,' a series of furniture including chairs and table, with the objective to expose people to the beauty and craft of dhow building and provide them with a new sense of appreciation for a profession that has been slowly dying away over the past few decades.

Saher Oliver Samman, born in London to an English mother and Palestinian father, has mastered the skills of traditional leather design, creating bespoke garments and objects.

Latifa Saeed, participating in this programme for the second time, enjoys exploring concepts, collaborating with artisans and designing without limitations. Having presented a seating collection made up of cushion tubes in the form of braids, this year, she adopts khoo weaving, using palm tree leaves which makes up 98% of the fruit trees in the region.

WHAT MAKES A DESIGN DAYS DUBAI (DDD) COLLECTION DIFFERENT?

I enjoy the collection more because my initial background is design, which is more functional in terms of aesthetics than art. On a personal level, I could see/imagine the pieces from DDD in my house compared to furniture that I see at other fairs.

HOW CAN I ADD A DESIGN DRIVEN PIECE TO MY HOME?

You can choose it based on the story of the piece - on how it was made, the relationship of the piece to the maker, its context, connection to the designer if it is personal. It's the piece that has a story.

Main image: Jorge Moura,
Mirror, Casted Metal, 2011.
Below: Jorge Moura,
Sideboard 2, Wood with
metal base, 2011.



NAKKASH GALLERY

Known for providing effortless style and elegance, Nakkash Gallery was founded in 1983 in Dubai and has continued to offer an array of collectible yet affordable limited edition art pieces, furniture and accessories suitable for all spaces and styles. The Dubai headquarters is at the forefront of interior design and offers exclusive international collaborations alongside local furniture suppliers and designers. This year Nakkash Gallery has a selection of metallic items from Jorge Moura which are both modern and elegant.

www.nakkashgallery.com





CHAMBER NYC

Chamber is a boutique of one-of-a-kind, rare and limited edition objects of design and art. Founded by Juan Garcia Mosqueda and located in New York City, Chamber takes the Renaissance-era "Cabinet of Curiosities" as its inspiration. The gallery aims to be a twenty-first century reliquary for unusual objects, as well as a platform for design experimentation. As a central part of its program, an artist or designer is chosen to curate an entire collection, bringing their unique viewpoint to Chamber through specially commissioned works and rare and vintage items, examples of which (such as the Horse Bust Chess piece and Spectable Lamp) can be seen at Design Days.

www.chambynyc.com

Above left: Alessandro Mendini Camino Edition of 3 24k Gold Chrome plated Ceramic, 2013
 Above: Studio Job Horse Bust Chess Piece Polished Bronze 24k Gold Gilding Paint Hand Blown Glass LED Nilfisk GM 80 P Edition of 4, 2014
 Left: Studio Job Spectable Lamp Polished and patinated Bronze Brass Aluminium Hand Blown Glass LED Edition of 25, 2014.



GINA BIRKHOFER
FROM CACHET

WHO ARE YOUR TOP THREE 'ONES TO WATCH' AT THIS YEAR'S DESIGN DAYS?

I love the work of Ajoud Lootah, but I would suggest visitors to pay attention to FBC London as well. And as I always have a soft spot for jewelleries Shamsa Alabbar is something to not be missed this year at Design Days.

WHAT MAKES A DESIGN DAYS COLLECTION DIFFERENT?

Is not necessarily different, in my opinion, if you are a visitor of Maison et Objet Paris or Salone Del Mobile Milano is just a smaller size of the two. I would consider because of its size a bit more focus on design pieces and not so commercial.

HOW CAN I ADD A DESIGN DRIVEN PIECE TO MY HOME?

Easy. Start to visit art museums and galleries whenever you travel. There you will find the best perspective of educating yourself to the differences between design driven pieces and art - a very thin line in my opinion. This will make you appreciate the modern day designs. I always believe that an individual should not forget what the past has given us. Know the past and be open to tomorrow.

HOW CAN I BEST DISPLAY ART IN MY HOME?

That's a bit difficult. It most certainly depends of your space and budget. If you have a small space and low budget I would start with pieces of art which bring together my entire space, but representing my personality. If you have a big space I would always try to highlight the piece of art and add furniture just to support it. Above all it all depends on you, regardless the budget or the size of your space. It needs to make you comfortable in your day to day living. Home is the place to be yourself and relax, after all.

YOUR FAVOURITE DESIGNER AND THEIR BEST PIECE.

It's difficult to point to a single designer, because I can't stick to one. It depends on my mood. But I do love two brands: Porta Romana in lighting and J. Robert Scott in furniture. It seems that I like their collections, a lot.



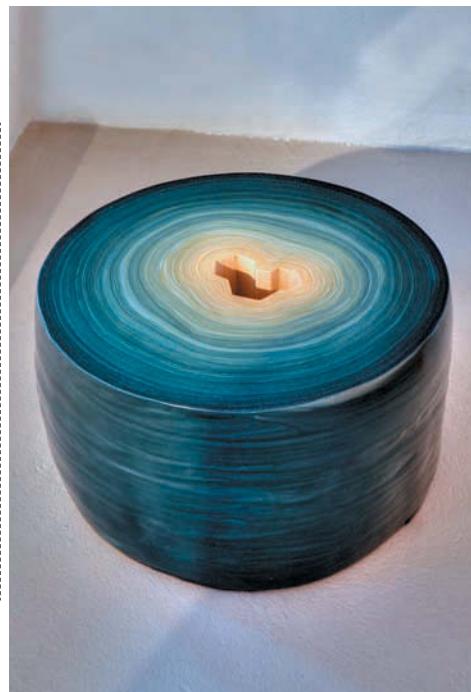
CRAFTS COUNCIL

As with 2014, The Crafts Council will bring a selection of exemplary British contemporary craft to Design Days. This year they have selected eight designers – Rebecca Gouldson, Stefano Santilli, Simone Bewster, Nicholas Gardner, Shauna Richardson, Fay McCaul, Andrea Walsh and Aline Johnson - whose work covers glasswork, textiles, crocheted embroidery and stonework. www.craftscouncil.org.uk

Above: Rebecca Gouldson Monoscope wall pieces Etched and gilded copper and brass Disc dia 38cm, 2014. Photo Sam Rhodes. Far left: Fay McCaul Copper Screen Cotton with copper inserts 80cm x 134cm, 2014. Photo Paul Dixon. Left: Andrea Walsh Faceted box 22ct Burnished Gold Porcelain and glass, 2014.



Main image: Rowan Mersh Placuna Phoenix Windowpane Oyster shells, 2014. Below: Alex Hull studio split chair. Below right: Study O Portable Fuzz Coffee Table Jesmonite, 2013.



GALLERY FUMI

Gallery FUMI was established in Shoreditch, London in 2008 and has built enduring relationships with clients, architects, interior designers and collectors. Embracing change and the unconventional, the gallery also promotes the value of craftsmanship and this year will present a selection of contemporary works, including new pieces commissioned specifically for the fair. Designers and Artists include; Glithero, Rowan Mersh, Sam Orlando Miller, Studio Markunpoika, Study O Portable, Jeremy Wintrebert, Thomas Lemut, Alex Hull and Faye Toogood.

www.galleryfumi.com



KHALED EL MAYS WHO IS EXHIBITING AS PART OF CITIES

WHO ARE YOUR TOP THREE 'ONES TO WATCH' AT THIS YEAR'S DESIGN DAYS?

I don't think I have top 3 designers, I consider Design Days to be a platform that defines and shows trends and products of high quality, that influence the design scene, specially in the Arab world.

WHAT MAKES A DESIGN DAYS COLLECTION DIFFERENT?

I think the global aspect to it is very important; galleries coming from different parts of the world to show their best designers. The diversity is different and the placement of Dubai as a world trade hub encourages more people to commit to it, especially if they want to reach the Gulf, Middle East and Africa.

HOW CAN I ADD A DESIGN DRIVEN PIECE TO MY HOME?

The best way to start is to love the piece, after that it is a matter of either making it fit in the general mood of the house, or make it stand out. In both cases a good design piece will find its way in the home and make it a more interesting and comfortable living space.

HOW CAN I BEST DISPLAY ART IN MY HOME?

The best way to display art is to let it breathe and give it enough room to manifest itself, there is always an aura around each art piece that needs to be respected in order for the piece to give its desired effect, and also to allow the owner or any viewer to have that moment of clarity with the art.

YOUR FAVORITE DESIGNER AND THEIR BEST PIECE.

One of my favorite designers is Jean Prouvé. My personal favorite piece of his is the compass table from the 1950s.

YOUR TOP TIPS FOR A STYLISH HOME.

Don't fall victim of one design trend, it becomes redundant.

Mix and match based on personal preferences as you want to love each corner of your home as this effects they way you experience it.

Design Destination

Emirates Home chats to Omar Nakkash, from NAKKASH Gallery, Dubai, about the business, their latest collection and what they have planned for this year.

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS? WHEN DID YOU ESTABLISH IT AND HOW HAS IT GROWN SINCE?

Established in 1983 and headquartered in Dubai, NAKKASH Gallery has been at the forefront of interior design for over three decades and aspires to go beyond client expectations.

Known for providing effortless style and elegance, NAKKASH Gallery is the ultimate destination for indoor and outdoor living. We provide more than just furniture – we offer a complete lifestyle. Our interior design services allow customers to select from an array of collectible yet affordable limited edition art pieces, fabrics, furniture and accessories suitable for all spaces. We remain true to superior quality and a variety of styles that can be customised to one's individual taste.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST PIECE/ COLLECTION?

NAKKASH Gallery's latest collection is from Hickory Chair. They are an artisanal company established in 1911, in North Carolina that produce handcrafted fine upholstery and case goods. For over 100 years they have helped discerning customers personalise furniture for every room, every reason and every style.

HOW WERE YOU INSPIRED TO PURSUE YOUR DESIGN WORK?

Born and raised in Dubai, I found inspiration from books and magazines my father used to place by my bedside. I was always passionate and curious about art for as long as I can remember and I travelled frequently collecting artefacts from around the world. I guess the combination of my passion for art and travel led me to become an interior designer.

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT CREATING YOUR PROJECTS?

I like to take my time and have a cyclical approach to design. Truly understanding how the client would like to utilise the space is the first step. The second step is to generate the most creative solution. Finally, analysing the most rational way of implementing the creative solutions within the context of the space.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE AND WHY?

Charles and Ray Eames Lounge + Ottoman is my favourite, other than its serene design and



technological advancement of its time, it is the chair I used to read all my books and magazines growing up. It has a sentimental value to me.

WHAT PLACE MOST INSPIRES YOU?

The sea.

BEST DECORATING TIP?

Take your time to develop and narrow down the concept. Once that's established everything stems from there. An important tip I would give is also to think about "decorating" as a process not a single task.

WHAT TREND ARE YOU ENJOYING NOW?

We are enjoying a shift from classic taste to a more contemporary design with an eclectic flair.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART?

An impossible question to answer. I think throughout life one goes through different phases, mentalities and personalities, in a way, and during those various times different art pieces resonate more. One that I keep reverting back to are Modigliani works. He is my





Clockwise from far left:
Omar Nakkash; a
roomset within the
Gallery; cool blue chairs
and traditional style
ginger jars; a
contemporary set up with
flashes of lime green; a
statement curved chair.

favourite painter, and was originally trained as a sculptor, which is translated in his paintings through his modern elongated style. Giacometti and Brancusi are my favourite sculptors. So you can say any work from the above artist are my favourite pieces.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE GALLERY?

Whenever we discuss the future of NAKKASH Gallery we always emphasise that our growth must fall in line with our values and philosophy: superior quality and elegant design. Having said that, we will be participating in Design Days Dubai for the fourth consecutive year.

We also launched Dine With Design, the concept is the first of its kind and aims to bring together Dubai's most talented interior designers and leaders in the worlds of art, style and architecture. An intimate and opulent dinner set in our showroom with a particular theme each time.

While the concept is still a novelty in the region, NAKKASH Gallery hopes to partner with a non-profit organisation to promote the spirit of giving within the industry.



SPRING STYLE

Thomas Lundgren from THE One talks to us about the latest spring collection, what's new for the brand and how to update your home this season.

TELL US ABOUT THE NEW SPRING COLLECTION.

New this season is the Bohemian Glam trend – a mix and match of the dark and heavy with shiny and glamorous products... and lots and lots of flowers! We're also introducing our charming Rustic Living colonial-inspired style, featuring mixed metals, dark wood and natural materials in a neutral colour palette and finally, our eclectic Moroccan Delight look, where ethnic goes edgy! Monochrome is still big, so our cool masculine MonoMania trend carries over from Autumn, but with new products. Same goes for Glamorama: the mix of animal prints, leather and gold gives a very luxurious and rich look. Pastels, antique metals and rose gold take centre stage in our feminine Timeless Elegance trend, while Tropical Punch is fresh and crisp – perfect for spring!

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR PLANS FOR 2015?

We are going to be growing! We have 11 new stores planned up to June 2015. This will include 3 new stores in Abu Dhabi and we will also be entering 4 other Emirates, namely Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman and Al Ain. Two more stores are on the cards for Qatar, one more for Lebanon as well as our new franchise in Azerbaijan. 2015 will also see the launch of THE One Basics - our brand new concept - in 4 locations, so watch this space!

HOW CAN I ADD SOME SPRING STYLE TO MY HOME WITHOUT A COMPLETE REDECORATION?

Start by looking at the base colour of your room, i.e. the walls and your main furniture. If your room has a natural or neutral base, simple tricks like the use of an accent colour in accessories and wall paint can keep your home on-trend and looking stylish. It is also easy to change again later on a tight budget.

Paint doesn't cost much and you can totally change a room by changing the colour of the walls. You can paint an accent wall; go for a paint effect like stripes or even paint the ceiling. Then, bring that accent colour from your walls into your accessories like cushions and throws. Play with colours and patterns in your fabrics to make it look interesting. Using flowers is also a great way to make your home look fresh and stylish.

TOP TRENDS FOR SPRING?

In terms of colours, the Pantone colour of the year, Marsala (a rich rust red) is hot for both fashion and interiors, while pastels in turquoise, peach and pink also put in a show. Metals are BIG this season, especially copper and antique



gold, as is white marble, geometric patterns, raw, rustic walls and lots of plants and flowers. Go for a mix of materials – think matt versus shiny – to be bang on trend.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE PIECES FROM THE COLLECTION AND WHAT MAKES THEM STAND OUT?

I have a few favourite pieces such as our metallic accessories (pictured here). The reason I like them is that each one has something unique about it, be it in terms of design, material, craftsmanship or attitude.

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT DESIGNING/CHOOSING YOUR PRODUCTS FOR A NEW LAUNCH?

We are a small tight-knit team here at THE Office that work on and create our two seasonal collections. My strength is to see the future and trends, to be out there with my antennas up, getting new ideas and sketching product concepts day and night.

We always work a year in advance on planning our new collections. We have a wall in THE Office where we pin up inspiration of everything we think is going to become a trend. That can be anything from movies, TV series and political events, inspiration from my visits to Harvard Business School and pages of fashion magazines. In fashion, there are always different trends from different eras. But as French poet and artist Jean Cocteau once said: "Fashion... One must forgive it everything; it dies so young." Fashion is fickle and fun, and THE One wants to be that too. So I immediately move on anything that inspires me in the fashion world, so nobody can copy us at the same time. They will copy us eventually, but later, and by then we would have already moved on.

HOW WOULD YOU ADVISE ON CHOOSING ARTWORK FOR THE HOME?

In my opinion most people take too little time to think about and pick art for their walls. It must be personal and mean something to you or be something you just love looking at, as it will be in your face every day. If you are unsure where to start, you could look for a picture or painting that will pick up a colour in the room or has a suitable theme for your room. When looking for artwork, keep the wall space in mind to ensure you buy a piece that is in proportion with the surroundings. A tiny picture on a big wall will look lost and strange, while a huge picture on a small wall might be too overpowering.





BATHROOMS TO LIVE IN

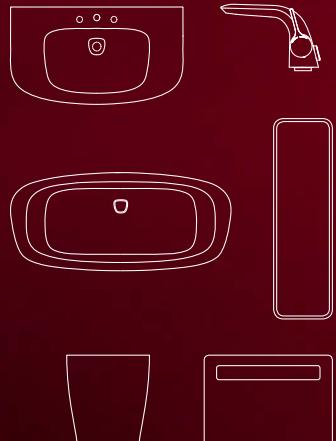
People dream to have their IDEAL bathroom, whatever that means to them, as STANDARD. Over 100 years we have been designing and manufacturing innovative products to help you create your "personal" space. Whether it is a place to re-energize, to make yourself beautiful or to play, it is always "A Beautiful Use of Space".

A luxury and vibrant design. A feel good result.

Curved yet controlled, inviting yet elegantly poised, Dea's beautiful lines are reshaping the way we experience bathrooms. With a vision of making our life better, design innovation meets intelligent details, hidden support systems, curves and colours. Dick Powel, world-renowned, award winning designer and the visionary behind Dea says that when it came to reinventing the modern bathroom, the objective was to create a more human and emotionally satisfying environment. And the truth is that Dea matches style with performance in a way that makes you feel truly pampered.



Dea Designer:
Dick Powell, Founder
of Seymour Powell



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DUBAI, UAE.

FOUR SEASONS

*Get away from it all in
Dubai's latest 5* resort, in
Jumeirah Beach.*

HIP HOTELS
At Home

Dubai is certainly not short of luxury, 5* hotels but not many carry the history and prestige of the Four Seasons. This much anticipated hotel opened its doors late last year and promised to set a new standard of luxury and service in Dubai. The 237 room hotel is situated at the north end of Jumeirah Beach, and has stunning views of the Downtown skyline. The unassuming building is both elegant and grand in a traditional Spanish-Islamic inspired architecture. On entering the hotel guests won't fail to notice the large arched window with views on to the lush gardens, infinity pool and alluring white sand beach beyond. To make this even more awe-inspiring, an oversized glass chandelier hangs under an octagonal dome above the grand staircase, which leads down to the pool, restaurants and spa.

The interiors, which were designed by BAMO, continue in the same elegant yet understated tones set by the façade of the hotel. In our spacious and bright King room, a muted colour palette of earthy neutrals is punctuated with patterned cushions, a dark blue sofa,



feature lighting and stylish seating. The balcony, with views over the resort and out to the Arabian Gulf, has elements of the Spanish-Islamic influence in the lights and large throw cushion on the day bed. The marble bathroom is a haven for those looking to relax and unwind – with a large freestanding bath, spacious shower and double sinks made all the more luxurious with pretty toiletries and thoughtful additions such as robes, slippers, and small tubes of after-sun cream.

The hotel boasts ten restaurants and lounges meaning that even the most

discerning guest will be satisfied. We enjoyed some pre-dinner drinks in the stylishly cool Mercury Lounge, which is fast becoming the place to be seen on a weekend. Described as the 'jewel in the crown' of the hotel, this chic space can be found on the sixth-floor rooftop and offers uninterrupted views of the Burj Khalifa and Downtown Dubai skyline on one side and the Burj Al Arab and sea on the other. The bar is situated inside a large glass sphere, and the friendly staff can mix up an extensive list of drinks from both on and off the menu.

After drinks we headed to Sea Fu, the hotel's seafood restaurant.



Offering cutting-edge Mediterranean style dishes and Asian-inspired delicacies, this lantern-lit, atmospheric restaurant is situated by the pool and beach – with al fresco dining available on the pretty terrace. Billed as one of the best seafood restaurants in Dubai, the food does not disappoint, neither does the informative but not overbearing service from the knowledgeable staff. Our shared starter of steamed dim sum was a light and tasty. Followed by mains of seared black cod with papaya salad, bean sprout and yuzu dressing with a side of sautéed kale with lemon and ginger; and simple market tiger prawns served with lemon butter with a side of lobster macaroni. For dessert we went for the recommended options of caramelised baby pineapple and limoncello savarin pine nut crisp.

For further luxury the Pearl Spa is a must-visit. Featuring ten treatment rooms, an indoor pool and aqua thermal experience there will be something to suit everyone. We recommend the Aromatherapy massage, which was therapeutic and relaxing – ideal for a Saturday morning. **For more information and booking call: 04 270 7777 or visit www.fourseasons.com/dubajb**

Clockwise: the view from Sea Fu; table setting in-room; all-day dining in Suq; a King room; VIP rooftop bar.

GET THE LOOK IN BRIEF



Thomas Paul
Geisha cushion,
Dhs649, Indigo
Living



Nolan
pendant
lamp,
Dhs1,295,
THE One



Cavendish table
lamp, Dhs2,324,
Andrew Martin



The Look

Etro show as a part of Milan Fashion Week. (Photo by Pier Marco Tacca/Getty Images)

HIP HOTELS
At Home
INTERNATIONAL

PARIS, FRANCE.

HOTEL VERNET

Unwind in style in the heart of Paris



Finding the Hotel Vernet is like discovering a hidden jewel in the bustling Champs Elysées area of Paris. Set back from the busy shopping strip, this townhouse, which is an example of true Haussmann style, has been artfully renovated by French Interior Designer Francois Champsaur to celebrate its 100th anniversary last year. Owned by the Bessé Signature family group, the Hotel Vernet pays tribute to French elegance and savoir-faire.

Francois Champsaur has brought the hotel up-to-date with a strong design-led interior, which doesn't distract from the beauty of the luxury townhouse building and features – such as the glass domed roof in the dining area, which was designed by the famed Gustave Eiffel. An avid collector of contemporary art, Francois has chosen a set of drawings, watercolours and engravings to showcase within the hotel. Feature elements of the interior include a large abstract carpet created by Jean-Michel Alberola, leather armchairs by Bassam Fellow, blue chairs by Minotti, Carrara marble flooring and unstructured bar, and a painted ceiling artwork, to match the carpet, also by Jean-Michel Alberola.

The rooms are a somewhat understated affair compared to the public areas, but no less stylish. We were lucky enough to experience the Executive Suite, which featured a large king bed (a twin option is available), bright and very spacious bathroom - complete with an abundance of gorgeous Hermes toiletries - with double sinks, walk-in shower and stand-alone bath, a dressing area, living room and balcony. The main feature in all rooms is the large curved oak sliding doors,



GET THE LOOK IN BRIEF

The Accessories

Ferm Living marble cushion, Dhs253, Norsu.com.au

Louise Roe marble and copper candle holder, Dhs198, Norsu.com.au

Cube cushion, Dhs259, [Indigo Living](http://IndigoLiving)

Avoca Spectrum Throw, Dhs532, Amara.com

Oak armchair, Dhs550, Muji

Chanel show/Womenswear Spring/Summer 2015 in Paris, France (Photo by Pascal Le Segretain/Getty Images)

Sara mirror with gold frame Dhs1,796, 2XL

the Look

which bring an architectural element to the room and give the interior a slight Scandi feel. The snug bedroom is brought to life with abstract brass bedside lamps, which reflect the classic brass-wear in the bathroom. The finishing touches of the bedroom include a contemporary mirror by Jean-Michel Alberola, curtains by Pierre Frey and a bright wool blanket from Arpin.

Dinner can be enjoyed in the hotel's signature restaurant, The V. This round dining room is accessed by the distinguished unstructured Carrara marble bar, which stands in front of a sculptural folded copper screen. The Jean-Michel carpet and ceiling artwork can be seen best here and are complimented by comfortable seating and the original red marble fireplace. The restaurant sits under the Gustav Eiffel grand glass roof and features bright green sofas, which match the colourful elements in the carpet. The menu is seasonal, simple and light with the added bonus of the kitchen being visible through a viewing window so guests can see the Chefs hard at work.

But if you are venturing further afield, we highly recommend a visit to FR/AME, a brasserie with Californian influences situated within walking distance from the Eiffel Tower. We tucked in to starters of fish tacos with mango salsa and sweetcorn soup served with coconut milk and popcorn. For mains the tasty San/Fran mussels cooked in white wine, coconut, ginger, lemongrass served with cumin fries went down a treat and across the table the shrimp cassoulet was moreish. The décor here is a mix of the cool and contemporary with a West Coast American feel. ■■■

On the web
www.hotelvernet-paris.com





INSIDE LOOK

Zengo DUBAI.

Asia recreated' is what is promised at Zengo, Le Royal Meredien Beach Resort's latest dining addition. Opened late last year this stylish venue offers stunning views over the hotel's gardens, pool and out to the Arabian Gulf.

Born out of a collaboration between world-renowned celebrity Chefs Richard Sandoval and Akmal Anuar, Zengo serves up modern Asian Cuisine with an international influence. These influences can also be seen in the cool, contemporary interior décor which consists of earthy tones, simple wood, oversized neutral seating, wire bar stools and geometric prints. There are also intimate dining areas, three themed bars – smoke, mist and fire, a lounge and terrace.

On arrival we were warmly greeted and ascended the floating, lantern-lit staircase to the restaurant where we chose a charmingly stylish terrace table. The amuse bouche of warm sweet and salted peanuts wrapped in paper were served quickly with our drinks (from the extensive menu and both delicious), promptly by the friendly staff along with the food menu. And what a menu. Split in to hot and cold small plates, salads and soups, sushi, Robata Grill, noodle, rice and large main dishes all with a distinct Japanese influence. In order to sample as much as possible we chose a selection of small dishes, such as Hokkaido Scallops, Arborio rice crusted oysters, Tempura prawn, Duck Maseca pancake, Baby fennel and burrata salad and Volcano salmon Maki rolls, many of which were recommended by our lovely waitress. All dishes, but especially the scallops which are served with yuzu jelly and avruga caviar in a shell, are a considered and interesting mix of flavours and textures that create more-ish little meals and show exactly why the two chefs are as successful as they are. For dessert we were urged to try the show-stopping Pralus Bio Equateur – a dark chocolate pudding, frozen honeycomb cake, sudachi plantane and honey ice cream.

With so much more to try, this is definitely a dining destination to return to.

www.zengo-dubai.com

Fact Box...

WHERE:
Le Royal Meredien Beach Resort & Spa,
Al Sufouh Road,
Dubai.

WE LOVE:
The outdoor terrace with relaxed seating, views and the scallops – to die for!

STAY FOR:
After dinner drinks on the terrace while listening to chilled-out tunes from the DJ.

THE GRAZIA STYLE AWARDS ARE BACK

**23 MARCH 2015 IS THE
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FASHION CALENDAR**

Nominations are now open for:

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- Regional Designer
- High Street Brand
- Bridge Brand
- Luxury Brand
- Independent Boutique
- It Bag of 2015
- Jewellery Brand
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Ask A Designer

Evelina Kravaev-Söderberg

The Head of Design at H&M talks to us about the stylish and affordable H&M Home collection, which has just launched in the UAE.

WERE YOU ALWAYS INTERESTED IN DESIGN?

Yes, from an early age. I always had an aesthetic eye and enjoyed beautiful things, but didn't realise that I wanted to get in to design until I was about 16 years old.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST PIECE/ COLLECTION?

The latest H&M Home collection, which has just launched here in the UAE. But I am currently starting work on spring/summer 2016 as we always work one year ahead.

HOW WERE YOU INSPIRED TO PURSUE YOUR DESIGN WORK?

I've always had a strong interest in creative fields such as art, music, and clothing. I started to draw, not from a very young age, but later on and I realised that I enjoyed it so I developed this as I liked it so much.

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT CREATING YOUR PRODUCTS?

There are a big team of designers, about 20 in total, with various special skills in textiles, graphics, non-textiles and we brief each other on our inspirations from things such as magazines, travel, social media, trend forecasts, media and in-house trends. We discuss ideas and everything just falls in to place in terms of design, colours etc.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE AND WHY?

It is hard to pick just one. The home collection is about putting things and looks together; such as cushions, throws and blankets. I like the cushions that we have in this collection. They are of good quality, at a decent price and can be used to add volume to a sofa.

WHAT PLACE MOST INSPIRES YOU?

Impossible to say one specific place as the world inspires me. Histories and traditions along with developing places, such as here in Dubai. Different cultures and people are also very inspiring.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

I like urban destinations – big cities such as Paris, London, New York, Tokyo and now Dubai, because there is a lot happening. But for sun and sea you can't beat Mexico, I love it.



IF YOU COULD OWN ANY ARTWORK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

A Jean-Michel Basquiat, an original of course!

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE YOU CAN SHARE WITH US ON WHAT SHADES TO LOOK OUT FOR WHEN PICKING A SPRING THEME?

At this time of year it is good to introduce some light in to your home by mixing pastels and neutrals together and use metallics, such as copper, brass or silver, as a basic accessory - you can see this a lot in this collection.

IF YOU COULD LIVE WITH ONLY THREE PIECES OF FURNITURE AND THREE OBJECTS, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Furniture would be a bed, a dinner table and a lounge chair and objects, I would choose a painting, candle and a throw.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING ASPECT OF YOUR JOB AS A DESIGNER?

To see the products in people's homes and how they have blended them with other things. It is also very rewarding to have a happy and creative design team with a positive energy. ■■■

I see interior decoration as being like a painting. The walls and flooring are the canvas, and it is not something to be rushed.



H&M Home is now available in Deira City Centre in Dubai and at Abu Dhabi Mall in Abu Dhabi.
www.hm.com/ae



SHOW-STOPPING HOME

Villa Lantana, a new development by TECOM Investments, opens the doors to its stylish and sophisticated show home in Al Barsha South, which has been designed by West Elm. We chat to both the developer and design team about the project, how it came to be and why you should be checking it out.



TECOM Investments answers

WHEN DID THE PROJECT START AND HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?

Construction started early 2014 and sales were launched to the public in September the same year. Our aim was to build a holistic community for the long term benefit of Dubai residents, and to ensure that Villa Lantana would meet the needs of young families in the emirate.

The demand is there for quality residential units within the market ensuring knowledge workers enjoy affordable quality housing options for their families, with retail centres, parks, and sports facilities in a welcoming community. This is an important part of the growth of Dubai. As the Al Barsha South area of Dubai develops, and as the market grows sustainably, we feel this is the right time to bring this exciting and unique option to potential investors and families.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE PROJECT?

We recognised the gap in the market for mid-market family housing in a convenient location. The central location in the growth corridor of Al Barsha was an essential component in ensuring we meet the needs of young families. We wanted to create a community that incorporates multiple zones within one development to reduce time residents spend on the road and increase the time they have to spend with family and friends. In addition, our research showed that there was an opportunity for long term home ownership within a more sustainable market.

TELL ME A BIT ABOUT THE LAYOUT OF THE VILLAS.

There are 17 different villa designs and 11 floor plans to choose from which means residents can be sure their home won't be exactly the same as the one next door. All of our floor plans are practical and are designed to fully utilise all available space. In order to ensure that living spaces are flooded with natural light, large windows are a key feature of every design. Intelligent use of space means that each living area feels fresh and comfortable with ample room for families to enjoy life fully whilst the open-plan style of layout creates a seamless flow between the living areas as well as between house and garden, perfect for entertaining.

I can say that the investor response to the design and layout has been great. This does not come as a surprise, as from the start of this design planning process we were rigorous in researching, surveying and developing an offering that meets real market demand, and did not just anticipate what we thought consumers wanted. For instance, we found that 60%-70% of people prefer to have a guest room on the ground floor and another living room on the 1st floor. We also discovered that 57% of people prefer a "modern" looking villa style over other more traditional or colloquial designs. From this research, we knew that Villa Lantana's contemporary designed villas (as well as its prime location) would be perfectly matched to Dubai's growing young family sector.



West Elm answers

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE INTERIOR DECORATION AND STYLE?

West Elm prides itself on a mix of modern, traditional, and eco-friendly furnishings to make the home atmosphere one that combines comfort and function. Family living was the inspiration for the interior decoration and style at Villa Lantana. We wanted to create warm and inviting spaces that bring people together.

HOW LONG DID ANY RENOVATION AND/OR REDECORATION TAKE PLACE?

The villas are brand new, so the accessories and furniture placement took just a few days. The first stage in our design process is for our Design Specialists to decide on the theme, the function, and the products. After this, it's a question of finding the perfect spots throughout the home to showcase all of our unique items.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES THESE HOMES UNIQUE?

The homes combine a modern aesthetic with a traditional, homely feel. We have selected our furnishings and design palette carefully to highlight the architecture and design of the villas. They have been designed and laid out in such a way that allows designers or homeowners to express their personalities and truly incorporate their unique style. Every West Elm product tells a story much like every home. We particularly like the attention to detail that comes with every home, for instance, the recessed curtain bays really help in hiding the curtain rails giving it a neater and fuller look from top to bottom. Similarly, the modern recessed ceiling lighting in the lower sitting room complimented by the wooden finishes on the banisters cleverly soften the overall feel of the house.

HOW DO THE VILLAS REFLECT YOUR STYLE?

The homes at Villa Lantana are outfitted in a very West Elm way, one that is perfectly in keeping with the style of the development as a whole and cleverly conforms to every space as well as your existing pieces. Your home is you and the style it represents should make

you feel comfortable and inspired. We feel the addition of family finds, antiques, and mementos are the best way to finish off the style that we and the design team of TECOM Investments have started for you. The villas give ample space for every room that brings family and friends together or when you need that all important quiet time alone. Whether it's the dinner table with everyone around sharing stories, the perfect bed to dream the night away, the ideal spot to read a good book, or a bathroom sanctuary to wash away the stress of the day. The development truly lends itself to quality time, whether alone or with the people you love.

ANY STYLING TIPS?

A balance of colours is important to give the eye somewhere to rest and to create an environment that is calm and relaxing; this has been achieved beautifully in our designed Villa Lantana home. However, as many of the main furniture pieces we used are in neutral or solid colours, it makes it very easy for you to update them throughout the year with the seasonal colours that take your fancy. By simply changing the pillow covers, throws, and accessories you can transform the colour story of your living spaces whenever you want to spruce things up.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ROOM?

The sitting room, its modern design of the lower seating area provides ample open space, separating itself from the dining area and making it easy to customise with furniture and accessories. The upper sitting room then comes in a close second with plenty of lounging space to work with, and opening the doors to a spacious glass walled terrace. The master bedroom, the room we spend most of our time in, is also one of the most liked. Together with the Villa Lantana design team, we have been able to create a beautifully designed space that ensures a good night's rest, provides comfort, and a perfect place to unwind and relax. We've used accessories, such as the duvet cover, that can be removed for seasonal updates and for easy care. Double his and hers nightstands are both functional and offer the perfect perception of balance so you can keep your mementos close by.







Ask an Expert

THIS MONTH: MAINTENANCE ADVICE

COLIN THOMAS & DAN GARNER FROM JIM WILL FIX IT

I'M NEW TO DUBAI AND ABOUT TO RENT AN APARTMENT, WHAT THINGS SHOULD I LOOK OUT FOR THAT MIGHT NEED FIXED?

Most importantly, welcome to Dubai and we hope you come to love it as much as we do! You are right to have your wits about you when you are looking to rent an apartment, as the standards can be variable here. Some of the maintenance issues to look out for include the following:

Firstly if at all possible, only sign on the dotted line AFTER the water and electricity (DEWA) has been switched on. This will allow you to check everything is in working order. If not, finding matching items can be time consuming, expensive and may fall to you rather than the landlord to repair. Look at the ceilings for signs of leaks. If there is, it

could be the water supply or alternatively the air conditioning in the apartment. Try both the hot and cold water in every sink, bath or shower, as even in newer properties these can need replacing. Ask yourself if the apartment needs repainting. If the answer is yes, this needs to be addressed by the landlord or agent before you are committed or it could be used as a good negotiating tool. As a rough guide, to repaint an average two-bedroom apartment would cost approximately Dhs3000-4500 including paint from a competent painting company.

Make sure you check the doors and windows to see if they are sealed properly. You need them to seal the heat out in summer, open to let the air in during the cooler months and keep out noise throughout. It is worth finding out who

is responsible for what and asking if the landlord will pay for any issues over a certain amount. We'd always recommend asking how you need to inform the landlord of any issues and if he needs prior approval, as well as if there is a reliable maintenance team on-site. Ask when the air conditioning was last serviced and who will be responsible for paying not just the ongoing energy bills but also for future services and replacement parts. We recommend asking if the landlord will agree to getting the air conditioning serviced two or three times a year by a reputable company as part of your rental contract.

If the apartment has been left empty for a while, it is highly likely that it will smell a little. However if it has been recently habited and it smells, it could point to an air conditioning or water issue, blocked or defective

toilet or shared exhaust ducts with other apartments. Make sure this is sorted before moving in.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS?

The Dubai climate means that the most common calls that we receive during the hotter months are for air conditioning related problems. Other regular issues throughout the year include power supply faults, defective water heaters and water leaks but having now successfully completed over 45,000 jobs here in Dubai, we've seen it all (and got the Jim Will Fix It T-Shirt).

THERE'S A MAINTENANCE COMPANY WITHIN MY BUILDING, CAN I STILL CALL ON YOU? WHAT SERVICES DO YOU OFFER THAT THEY MIGHT NOT?

Yes, of course. If there is a maintenance company within your building, it may be that in reality they are no more than one man with a screwdriver and do not have specialists for the job you need fixing. At Jim Will Fix It, we only use qualified and English-speaking specialist technicians supported by a British Bookings Team. This means we can begin the diagnosis from your initial phone call and match your maintenance issue with the right specialist from within our staff. Our aim is to complete the repair as quickly and effectively as possible. In fact our mantra is "one call, one visit, job done" and we have been delivering this for the last seven years.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I BE PAYING FOR REPAIRS?

Like most things in life if

"you buy cheap, you pay twice" and there are many companies here using unqualified staff with limited knowledge and skills so I would be cautious of anyone advertising themselves as the cheapest in the market. Unlike most companies here in Dubai, we don't insist that our customers sign for an annual maintenance contract upfront as to us it seems ridiculous to pay thousands of dirhams without knowing if the maintenance company you hire is either capable or is even still going to be on the end of the phone in six months time.

Working this way means our customers get value for money as they are only paying for work that is actually required when it is required and we have to be good or else our customers would not call us back next time they have a maintenance issue.

WHAT ARE THE COMMON AIR CONDITIONING PROBLEMS AND HOW EASILY ARE THESE FIXED?

The most common problems are either water leaks or quite simply your AC stops cooling your apartment or villa. Bear in mind that by the time you detect a service-related issue such as a lack of cooling, it is highly likely that your DEWA bills will have already surged as your AC has been working harder than it should have been to lower the temperature. It's important to understand that AC involves the dangerous mix of water and electricity and hence it is vitally important that only qualified professional's work on your air conditioning units.

Never has the 'don't try this yourself' message been more true.

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SYLVAIN GAILLARD GENERAL MANAGER, OPERA GALLERY

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN THE BUSINESS?

I am the general manager of Opera Gallery in Dubai. I oversee pretty much everything, from curating exhibitions, promoting the gallery, coaching my staff etc. It's a very fulfilling position because I get to mix business and art. For me, it is the perfect position. I have a formal business background holding an MBA in investment and marketing and was previously in investment banking before making the switch to evolve in a stimulating and creative industry.

TELL US ABOUT THE IDEA BEHIND THE BRAND

We focus on product and

service. From a product perspective, we specialise in offering art pieces from masters (Picasso, Chagall, Botero etc) and international contemporary artists. From a service aspect, we try to be more than an art gallery. The strategy behind the brand is to give best-in-class advice when it comes to investing in art or building a collection. Whereas some businesses go for a quick sale, we aim to build long lasting and intimate relationships with our clients. We've been successful at providing the latter for over 20 years across the globe.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR OWN

PERSONAL INTERIOR STYLE?

Very minimalistic and tonal. I generally favour empty spaces with carefully curated pieces. I love white, it personally brings me peace and I love the purity. White is a great canvas to play with. I like to keep furniture to a bare minimum and use art (whether paintings or sculptures) and books to give the decorating accent. In an ideal world, I would live in a big open space with very raw material like concrete, wood and glass, filled with carefully picked artworks.

FAVOURITE ARTWORK?

"King Alfonso" and "Charles the First" by



Jean-Michel Basquiat are amongst my favourite pieces. In my personal collection, two very large pieces from Lale Tara and Kezban Arca Batibeki, as well as a commission work (that I haven't yet received) from Sharjah based artist Baseem Rayyes. As well as these artists, I am very receptive to abstract paintings.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR BUSINESS/YOU?

For the business, keep curating nice shows and promote Opera as one of the leading galleries in the region. On a personal level, I'd like to keep exploring Dubai and its surroundings, grow my art and sneakers collection, and travel a bit more. ||||



DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Art. Fashion. Travel

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